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HAWTHORNE'S

BOOK OF

READY

MADE



SPEECHES

NEW YORK
HURST & CO.

HAWTHORNE'S
BOOK OF
READY-MADE SPEECHES

ON
ALL SUBJECTS THAT CAN OCCUR,
WHETHER ON
SERIOUS, SENTIMENTAL, OR HUMOROUS OCCASIONS.

INCLUDING
SPEECHES AND REPLIES
AT
*DINNERS, RECEPTIONS, FESTIVALS, POLITICAL MEETINGS,
MILITARY REVIEWS, FIREMENS' GATHERINGS,*
AND, INDEED, WHENEVER AND WHEREVER
ANY PARTY, LARGE OR SMALL, IS GATHERED,
TO DINE, TO MOURN, TO CONGRATULATE, OR TO REJOICE.

APPENDED TO WHICH ARE
FORMS OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF RESOLUTIONS, ETC.,
WITH A GREAT NUMBER OF
SENTIMENTS AND TOASTS.

NEW YORK :
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134 & 136 GRAND ST.

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For Sale by H. Fischer & Co.,
93 & 95 N. Main St., Glandorf, Ohio.
Send for circulars.

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PREFACE.

A man may have all the wisdom of all the sages, from Socrates to Emerson, but if he has not the ability to make an off-hand Speech, at all times and on every subject, he never counts for much, either socially, politically, or religiously. This is eminently the case in most English-speaking communities; and pre-eminently so in the United States. But as it is not given to every man to be able to collect and arrange his thoughts in proper form, and to outpour them in expressive words and graceful sentences—the next best thing is for every one to study the neatest form of speech, and learn to marshal his words, in a plain, coherent, if not eloquent style. Few days pass in which an active man of affairs—whether in commerce, trade, or the professions—is not called upon to “speak a piece” of some kind. He is either the recipient of a gift, or he has to present one; to condole with some misfortune, or congratulate on some success; to accept or decline some office; to welcome some coming, or bless some parting guest; to present a new set of colors, or receive some battle-scarred ensign; to tender bouquets to a bride, or strew flowers upon a grave. In short, we Americans, are very like the sons of beautiful France in this respect: the slightest cause will

set the tongue a-wagging; and often with very brilliant results. As witness, the very graceful way in which the "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table" proved himself the "Emperor of the Dinner Board"—notwithstanding he faced two hundred experts, fit to "anatomise Regan." Every kind of commemoration in this country calls for at least two speeches; and every man—young or old—is liable at all times to be called upon to "stand and deliver." It is worse than useless to waste words, in saying that you can't speak. Better imitate U. S. Grant, and "move upon the works at once." To be able to do this, we advise that you should carefully read, study, and well digest the abundant Speeches which we present in this book. Not that you should necessarily speak those you select word for word; but that you may "get the hang of the thing." Then, by the addition of a sentence or two, you will find that your short, pointed, "ready-made" speech may take the wind out of the sails of many of those tedious would-be orators, who never know when to "belay their jawing-tackle."

Hawthorne's Ready-Made Speeches

SPEECHES AT REPRESENTATIONS.

In nearly all these otherwise pleasant affairs, the business is apt to go lamely off, unless each participant is both willing and able to do his share toward the general happiness. No people equal us in the number and liberality of our presentations. To-day it may be a gold watch; to-morrow a handsome boat, next day a solitaire breast pin, and so on, through the long catalogue of things presentable. It is well for every man, young or old, to be ready to do his part toward the pleasure of all assembled. A short speech conned out of this department of our book, will fit him with a Ready-Made Speech, which may "bring down the house;" but will most certainly prove the speaker to be a man of sense.

Speech on Presenting Colors.

COLONEL:

I speak the truth when I say that nothing could afford me greater pleasure than thus to meet you and your regiment. Had I been called upon to speak on any other occasion I should have declined; for "speak-

ing" is not one of my gifts. But I feel so very highly honored by being chosen to address you, that I will let my heart prompt my tongue. No color has ever been taken from an American regiment, I am proud to say, except under circumstances in which a Spartan might lose his shield. Knowing this, I confidently place these battle-flags in your hands, feeling certain, that they will always be held by your color-bearers as a rallying-point for the regiment, during the fiercest charge and in the hottest fire. If it should, unfortunately happen that War will again blow his frightful blast among our peaceful hills and valleys, I am certain that if there is a solitary corporal's guard left unscathed of this noble regiment, that little corps will bring with it, out of the last battle-field, at least the tattered and glorious fragments of what are now such handsome ensigns. To each and all of you allow me to tender the best wishes of my friends and my own, trusting that when the great "mustering out day" arrives, we may all be able to show an honorable discharge.

Speech to a Company, with a Flag.

COMMANDER:

I have sincere pleasure in being commissioned by a large body of our fellow citizens to deliver this flag into your hands, as a testimonial of their admiration and esteem. Admiration at the skill and proficiency you have displayed in drill and marksmanship; esteem for the subordination you have shown under trying circumstances, and your ready response to every call made upon you to aid the civil authorities in all cases, when your assistance was deemed necessary. I am cer-

tain that when the "trump of war blows in your ears," you will keep this flag "full high advanced;" and that whenever danger is to be faced, and honor found, this command will be ever in the van: giving and taking the stoutest blows with a right good will. Then, when Peace returns, such of you as live through perils will come home like the soldiers of Washington and Lincoln, deserving and receiving the heartfelt thanks of your fellow countrymen, and the blessings of your mothers, wives, and sweethearts.

The Officer's Reply.

SIR:

On the part of my comrades, both privates and officers, I return you our heartiest thanks for the beautiful flag which you present to us this day. Had we not already enrolled ourselves, willingly and cheerfully, determined to march in the footsteps of our illustrious predecessors, though these footsteps should be marked in blood, as in the days of Washington; we should feel inspirited to do our duty by this evidence which we now receive that the eyes of our fellow countrymen are fixed upon us—to sympathise with our mishaps and sufferings, and to give us the plaudits and the laurels for bravery, which America has ever been ready to bestow upon her valiant sons, whether they defended the Republic among the swamps of Louisiana, or upon the waters of Lake Erie. I can assure you, that come what may, we will never forget that our fellow citizens have proven the faith they have in us, by entrusting us with this elegant ensign, and as long as the blue of heaven is unchanged, and the stars retain

their brilliancy, we believe that no American soldiers will prove recreant to their duties as defenders of the national standard, with its blue ground, and its galaxy of stars.

Speech at a Sword Presentation.

COLONEL :

The honorable, honest and valorous conduct of the men of your profession in the service of your country, whether on the arid plains of the desert, on the snowy mountain ridges, or in battling the scalp-tearing Indians, prove that Edmund Burke was a little "too previous" when he declared that "the age of chivalry was past." It would be unfair to select a few from the long roll of honor that our latest battle-fields have filled with heroic names—but from the day that Washington unsheathed the sword for his country—a weapon that returned unsullied by stain into its scabbard—till the day that saw Grant defile through the American capital, with an army of victors ; of soldiers who might have stood comparison with the veterans of Alexander, of Cæsar, or Napoleon. In other words, from the time of Washington till to-day, our soldiers and sailors have been the noblest product of our teeming country. Knowing these to be facts, you can judge how proud I am to be the agent of so many of my esteemed fellow-citizens, to hand you this sword. I know that you would sooner that your right arm should be paralyzed than draw it from its scabbard in an unrighteous cause; and that when your country calls you to the field, to punish aggression or repel invasion, its unsmirched blade will leap forth like the

lightnings of heaven, only to be sheathed after the insolent aggressor has been humbled and the invader routed. With this blade go to you the best wishes of us all.

The Officer's Speech in Return.

SIR:

I would be untruthful to my noble profession, if I did not own that I feel my heart beat high and fast at being made the recipient of your beautiful and most appropriate gift. I thank you for the kind manner in which you have referred to the military. Although in so doing, you in a manner praise yourselves. For we are all soldiers, brothers-in-arms even, whenever hostile weapons point at the heart of Columbia. If it should be my honorable post to face our enemy in battle; believe me I will not fail to give a good account of the way in which I wield your valued gift. Believe me, too, that it shall never be used to rob even the most humble of my fellow-citizens of one iota of his rights.

Speech at a Presentation of Plate.

SIR:

A Committee of our fellow-citizens has desired me to act as their spokesman on this occasion. They, in their turn, are but the willing agents of a far more numerous body of our most respected townspeople. Your conduct as a public officer has been carefully and critically scanned by us all: the few envious and selfish, perhaps hoping that some dark spots might dim the brightness of your official service; the more numer-

ous looked to see you faithfully and firmly do your duty, and your entire duty. Your conduct has put to shame the few doubting Thomases; and justified all the highest anticipations of your friends. The public funds have been as faithfully treasured in your charge as if they had been locked and sealed in the depths of a Safe Deposit Vault. And well they might be, for Honesty held the key with a grasp that neither Seduction could relax, nor Force destroy. May this service of plate remain as bright as your character, and may it continue in your family, so that your children's children may proudly point to the inscription that tells posterity what was thought of you by your fellow-citizens.

The Officer's Reply.

SIR:

Knowing, as I so well do, your high character, and the high character of those citizens whom you so well represent, I may well feel honored, at once by the splendid gift—priceless to me, indeed, from the manner in which it is bestowed. I can take but little praise to myself for the manner in which I have tried honestly, faithfully, and punctually to fulfil all the demands made upon me in my official capacity—for the reason that I have been brought up in this community; and I can thankfully and truly say that in this age of speculation and peculation, but few of my fellow-citizens have yielded to the counsels of Mammon; but have toiled on—some acquiring wealth, others meeting with rebuffs at every step. But all retaining, which is better than large mansions or big bank balances, the reputation of being honest men. In conclusion, I

will say that the last thing cruel fortune can ever rob me of, will be your noble gift.

Speech on Presentation of a Watch.

SIR:

The gentlemen who have determined to present you with this time-piece have chosen an article every way suitable to the purpose. When you examine its construction and look at its movements, you will see how truly they symbolize your own course: Always on time; never too slow nor too fast; every action duly regulated; the complex wheels all controlled by the balance: the brain, as it were, of the beautiful machinery. All working together harmonious and exact. The hands keeping us informed that all goes well within. So has it been with your career. You have not only done right; but you have kept your constituents always aware of the fact; and have not tried, as many other servants have, to make a mystery of the doings of your office. The materials of which the watch is composed are also eminently proper. The gold is of the purest, as your conduct has been; the spring is of the finest, as your behavior has shown itself; while the suavity with which you have treated all having business with you, has caused everything to run smoothly as do the works of this full-jewelled timepiece. We trust that you may be spared many years to mark the flight of time by its hands; and that when for you "time shall be no more," you may enter happily into the portals of eternity.

Reply.**KIND SIR:**

Through you allow me to say that from a grateful heart I thank you and those associated with you in bestowing such a magnificent present on me. Had I needed anything to remind me that every hour—nay second—of a man's life should be so regulated that they will bear inspection, when the book of time is finally balanced, this time-piece will remind me whenever I glance upon its face. It will, also, remind me that my conduct has not only been such as to satisfy myself; but has also won me, that which I esteem most highly, the approval and friendship of the worthy citizens who have in such a handsome way more than rewarded me for all that I have been able to do.

Your fellow-citizens who, with me, have closely and with much pleasure, followed your conduct in performing the arduous duties of your difficult office, desire me to present you with this bright, pure and elegant article, as a public token of their approval of your various acts. This jewel will remind all who see it on your person, of the words of the great dramatist, "so shines a good deed in this naughty world." We feel that we are honoring ourselves more by bestowing than you are honored in receiving this brilliant; and I feel how poorly my bare words can express the high admiration and warm friendship entertained for you by the donors. They join with me in fervently hoping that you may live long to wear this handsome ornament; convinced that no act of yours will ever tarnish the bright record you have thus far made.

Reply.**SIR:**

We sometimes hear it said that public men would be more punctual in their duties, more honest in handling trusts, if they were oftener noticed and better appreciated. This is not true of our age and country. Every honest, well-meaning man, who has faithfully striven to do his duty, has met with praise, and often something more substantial, from his countrymen. If that has been so in eminent cases, how much more striking does it appear in my case. Here have combined a number of citizens—many of great ability, all of probity and good sense—to reward me for simply doing my duty, as well as my poor abilities would permit. While I shall ever take pride in wearing this valuable present; I feel greater pride in knowing that I have won your friendship.

Speech to a Target Company, with Prizes.**GENTLEMEN:**

As you have, by your accurate markmanship made this once smooth and handsome target assume the appearance of a greatly magnified top of a pepper-box, my pleasurable duties begin. I have not the slightest doubt that if an insolent foe should ever set foot upon our shores, you will treat him in a similar style. Discipline is to be desired; celerity, and exactness of line and square, are obvious requisites. But accurate firing is more essential than all of these. It is a saying very wide of the mark, that "every bullet has its billet;"

military staticians inform us that scarce one bullet in a hundred reaches the object aimed at. Many of our most brilliant victories were won by our superior shooting. In the battles of the Revolution, the "minute men," used to bringing down the eagle on the wing, and the buck on the jump, were far better and more effective as combatants than the Hessians and the British; though they had been "put through their facings" for years, by the drill sergeant and the fugleman. I have been surprised at the soldierly manner with which you have handled your pieces, and the wonderful accuracy of your aim. Had you done nothing else in life but practiced rifle-shooting, we should have expected great things of you; but as you are only amateur riflemen, we had no reason to expect anything extra. But you have amply justified the high opinion I have often heard your friends express of your skill. To be a good marksman, is to prove that you possess many most desirable qualifications: you must have strong muscle and unfaltering nerves; your habits of life must be careful and temperate; your intellect must be clear; your eye bright and keen; and your heart must temperately beat tune. If one fails in either of these requirements—he fails in all as a marksman. Now, in presenting you these tangible testimonials of the admiration of your fellow-citizens—many of whom know what fighting means—let me further observe that the very qualities that have gained you these prizes, are the very ones needed to insure you success in the storms and struggles of life. The same firmness of nerve, the same quick glance, same unquailing heart, will win you that abundant success which we all sincerely desire for you.

The Captain's Reply.

SIR:

I can assure you that my comrades and myself had much sooner face a well-armed foe, with the trusty rifles of whose work you have spoken so highly, than stand up in the presence of this kind assemblage, to make a return for the rapid and brilliant volley of compliments which you have poured in upon us. It has been said that "bayonets think" in the present time; but the remark is truer if applied to "bullets." For it requires some brain work to make a bullet fulfil its mission. But I am shooting wide—I rose to thank you, fervently for your kindness.

Speech at a Temperance Presentation.

GENTLEMEN:

I would have been better pleased to have attended here, as an approving spectator on this interesting occasion. Temperance has many a worthier and far more eloquent disciple than I. But a man who enlists for the war is not to choose his own place. I feel that it is good for us to be here, and I will not allow any timidity on my part to interfere in any way to block the movements of the best cause that ever unchained the tongue of man. While we have a formidable enemy to combat with; strongly entrenched behind money-bags and whiskey-barrels; we may take heart and grace that in this battle—unlike all others—the vanquished lose neither life nor honor. Our victorious chariots will not be wheeled over the prostrate forms of the defeated. Every one of our opponents, whether

rum's seller or rum's victim, will be benefitted by the overthrow. Satan—according to Milton—felt a species of devilish rapture in feeling that he had only been overwhelmed by Omnipotence. But over whom does King Alcohol win victories? Men of liberal hearts, but thoughtless dispositions; over sad, broken-hearted wives, who as they clasp their dying little ones to their starving hearts, as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, glance up to heaven, in appeal from the doings of the rum-demon. Oh, friends, receive this banner; keep it always aloft: in full view of all the world. Vow to fight under its precious and ample folds till every drop of the baleful hell-broth has disappeared from the earth. Think that for every palace raised by rum-sellers, dozens of poor-houses have been needed; think that to enable a pot-house keeper's wife to buy a sealskin sack, hundreds of better women have to pawn their babies' clothes; and sell their bedclothes that the rum-seller's nag may be blanketed. I believe that in your hands this banner will be safe; but remember that even in this glorious cause—eternal vigilance is the price of *victory*!

Reply.

KIND SIR:

I shall not attempt to improve upon your feeling and eloquent remarks. I know that they were "not words, mere words;" but that every sentence was forged by the hammer of earnestness upon the anvil of truth. I feel very sanguine of ultimate success. Even the most ignorant and hardened rum-seller must soon be made to see that there can be no permanency even to his wealth; or to the wealth of his country, when

every noble feeling, every manly and humane principle; is being sapped by the poisonous rot of alcohol. He often lives to see all that he has perilled his soul for—*money*—lost by his own son, at the gaming-table, or squandered in the gin-mill. Sisters and brothers, I thank you in behalf of our Society.

Speech to the Winners of a Rowing Match.

GENTLEMEN:

In the boat race just finished, and whose rapid progress we have all watched with the keenest interest and greatest pleasure; you have displayed so much skill and endurance that the prize is well earned. We all hope that in the race of life, you will always be safe in the life-boat, when heavy storms come on; that you may always *hold your own*; your enemies never *run foul* of you, and when in troublous waters your *craft* will bear you to safe harborage. And now, let me congratulate you on your winning the prize by sheer pluck, strong muscle, and admirable skill.

Reply.

SIR:

We are more proud of our success when we remember from what trained and determined opponents we have taken the prize. The next time they may be winners, and we their admirers. For in all manly sports, no feeling but generosity should have a place. In our profession, we regard defeat but as an incentive and spur to future efforts. While accepting the re-

ward which you have so kindly presented to us, we honestly acknowledge that our victory has been won with difficulty.

Speech to a Retiring Railroad Officer.

SIR:

The persons who, with myself, have witnessed the skill, energy, wisdom, and cheerfulness with which you have done your arduous duties, could not allow a severance of the friendly bond which attaches them to you, without giving some parting token, however little in proportion to your worth, of their high regard for you. Unlike too many others placed in high positions, your head has not been rendered dizzy by elevation. You have done three difficult things well: You have served the interests of the Company ably and honestly; you have fulfilled all the extremely exacting duties toward the travelling public without the slightest shortcomings; while to us, individually and collectively, you have proved yourself not merely an excellent superintendent, but a real friend. With this token of our highest regard, please accept our most sincere wishes for your continued prosperity. If you are as fortunate as you deserve to be, your warmest friend can wish you no more.

The Officer's Reply.

SIR:

To you, and to all who have joined with you in this most pleasing presentation and address, I fully recip-

rocate all your kind wishes and prayers. You—with whom I have so often worked through night-storms, hardships, and “wrecks”—know that my active duties allowed me little time to cultivate the graces of public speaking. We have seen the *red-light* throw out its danger-signal so often, that we have had to act, and not talk. This habit follows us when we are off the line and the platform, Probably this is the reason that, while my heart prompts me to say many things, my tongue can only utter—*thanks!*

**Address, with Token, from Young Lady
Pupils, to their Favorite Teacher.**

KIND LADY:

Now that we are about to part from you, we feel more strongly than ever before how much you deserve for your ever anxious care of our morals, and your arduous endeavors to impart to us all we were willing to receive of your extensive learning, and manifold accomplishments. We feel that though many of us will soon be reunited to the families we love, and will enjoy the delights of home life, that we will be leaving the kindest, truest, dearest friend that ever was given to guide the footsteps and train the mind of well-meaning, but, too often thoughtless, girls. Learning, that is almost a terror to some, you have rendered by your skill and sweet temper, rather a recreation than a task. Your own example, even more than your wise precepts, have shown us how much better it is to *deserve* success in everything, than merely to *achieve it*. And we feel that if we are ever distinguished above other young ladies, for scholarly attainments and ami-

able traits of disposition, we shall owe all to you. Accept this slight token of the love which we shall retain for you as long as we live; and that you may long live and through a lengthened life receive such blessings as you have strown in the paths of all you have so thoroughly educated, is our hearts' truest hope.

The Teacher's Reply.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS:

In after years you will more fully understand the great grief I feel in parting with you; though the pang is somewhat lessened by the thought that however far we may be apart, we will often think of each other with feelings of mutual regard and affection. I can with truth say that I have found it very easy to be kind to you, for after making allowance for the little outbreaks of juvenile thoughtlessness, and the occasional lack of assiduity in pursuing difficult studies, I have found you the most docile and deserving set of scholars that it has been my good fortune to direct. While I sincerely return you my most heartfelt thanks for your kind compliments and rich present—my truest pleasures are to come; for I hope and believe that whenever I hear from you, or of you, in the great world, I will hear nothing but good of you.

Pupils of an Academy to their Principal.

RESPECTED SIR:

I am desired by my companions to offer you this souvenir of their regard and affection. Our object is

to show, that while we do not carry men's heads on boys' shoulders, we are not without the mental power to appreciate, and in a slight degree to award a recompense for duties done by you as our principal. Doubtless we are in a great degree indebted to you for this discrimination. Certainly we know, by comparison with many other educational establishments, that we have been taught more in less time than in most of them. We have, also, been taught, as much by example as by precept, that honesty, truthfulness, and politeness, are as essential to true manhood, as a knowledge of grammar and algebra. You have led us to look up to you not merely for instruction, but for advice; and if we but cherish and act on the many golden rules by you laid down for our guidance, in our dealings with books and with men, our future lives will in no sense be failures. Thanking you earnestly, and with full hearts, for your instructions as a teacher, and your counsels as a friend, we present to you this tangible evidence of our gratitude; and trust that success and happiness may be your companions all through life.

The Principal's Reply.

MY YOUNG FRIENDS:

Your conduct upon this, as upon various other occasions, prove that my poor endeavors have not been in vain. Your well-composed address shows that the seed of learning has not been sown in barren soil; and your kind method of displaying your respect and affection for me, evince that my efforts to make you *gentlemen* as well as *scholars*, have been crowned with

success. I accept your gift with feelings of deep gratitude, both to you, and to that Great Power, who has decreed that if we cast our bread upon the waters it will return after many days. I had hitherto found that reason and gentleness are as efficient factors with boys as with men; and your case still more strongly convinces me of the rightfulness of that opinion. If you carry out in the world, the determination to conquer ignorance by study, and to disarm prejudice by calm reason, I firmly believe you will attain an eminence rarely reached under the, now almost obsolete, method of compulsion and severity.

With Piece of Plate to a Winning Yacht.

SIR:

There are few spectacles so calculated to rouse the spirit, and to send the blood leaping through the veins, as when we see such dashing scenes of life on the ocean wave, as are presented by the ever-shifting panorama of a first-class Regatta. We feel almost impelled to troll out some animated sea-song. This stirring and instructive amusement should be cherished and encouraged by a nation that counts such sailors as Lawrence, Decatur, Perry, and scores of other equally meritorious officers and gallant men on its rolls; and such writers as Cooper, Ingraham, Judson, and Dana, among its nautical writers. But methinks I hear some tarrified auditor (not *terrified*,) exclaim, "avast, take a turn there, with yer' lingo, shipmate!" And I heed the presumed nautical command "to obey orders, if you break owners!" To return to *our* regatta. Was ever a lovelier sight beheld than when your

yacht, the ———, showed her bright copper glancing like burnished gold, through the blue, snow-crest billows, cleaving the watery obstacle to her advance easily as a gull floats along through the pure ether, winning the prize, and just winning it—from a splendid fleet of right speedy and well manned competitors. Not only did your handsome vessel show that her *lines* had fallen in pleasant places: but the way in which she was handled let even the least skillful see, that she was manned by a crew, who knew thoroughly how to set, reef, and steer. May this falcon-like bark always bear her pennant well in the van—aye ready, as on this occasion, to give an opponent plenty of sea-room, and fair sailing—taking no unfair advantage and asking no favors. And now, sir, I come to the most pleasant portion of my duty. It is to present you with this handsome piece of plate. It is given you by men, who like yourself, are ardently devoted to sailing, believing it carries with it its own exceeding great reward—making men healthier, and consequently happier; and helping to build up that mercantile marine, which at one time was, and we trust speedily will be again, the right arm and the pride of the Republic. The prize could not have passed into worthier hands.

Reply.

GENTLEMEN:

Yachting has been to me a source of real pleasure. On the deck of my yacht, I give dull care a fillip, and seem to doubly enjoy every enjoyment. How much more deeply I am gratified when I find that my humble endeavors to improve the hulls, fashion the sails,

and generally fit-out and manage the beautiful craft, result so successfully. That I have taken the pennant from the many swift and admirably sailed vessels of this squadron, is to me a treat of the highest kind. "When Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war," and I feel that I have something to be proud of in snatching a victory from such able, though friendly, contestants. The elegant prize you have awarded me, will always be proudly exhibited on my table, either on board my gallant clipper, or in my cherished home, and you will always have a sailor's hearty welcome, whether to "splice the main-brace," or merely take a "whiff of 'baccy," or some other Solace for low spirits. Once again—I thank you all.

Speech, with a Gift, to a Retiring Officer.

SIR:

I feel honored that I have been selected by a committee of so respectable a body of our fellow-citizens to present you with this valuable and uniquely beautiful token of their respect. You have not been one of those unfaithful stewards, who have buried their talents in a napkin so far out of sight, that they were never to be seen when needed. On the contrary, you resemble him to whom it was said, "Well done, good and faithful servant." It is seldom, now-a-days, that an office is dignified by the behavior of a man who fills it; but you have been so clear in your high office, that even your political *opponents* have never been your personal enemies. That your future conduct will be marked by the same high qualities, in whatever station, however elevated, you may be called upon to fill,

is our firm belief, and we all unite in wishing you as prosperous a career as you most justly merit.

Reply.

SIR:

Allow me here to remark, that if officials were as kindly remembered for the little excellence they display—as in my case—as they are readily censured for trivial mistakes and unavoidable shortcomings, there might possibly be more faithful officers. But, we have not met to discuss Civil Service methods. So I will briefly say that your fine present, and finer reception, greatly exceed my deserts. I have aimed to deserve commendation; and where I have failed, the failure has resulted rather from incapacity than inattention. Hoping that you may have many moments in your lives, as happy as those you have given me. I bow my thanks for your undeviating kindness.

Speech, with a Cue, to a Champion Billiardist.

SIR:

You have *angled* in a nice *pool*, and spotted Victory this time. Your opponent missed a shot, when he fancied “he had you on a string.” The “Knights of the Round Table” used to think that they had a fine time of it; but the *Square* Table takes every thing down in the way of real harmless enjoyment. Nothing was able to *balk* you in your magnificent play, and even your very smart antagonist, confesses that blind chance had nothing to do with your success: you won

by skill, judgment, and display of wonderful nerve. Spite of Charles Reade's theory about the least-used hand, you show so finely with your *dexter*, we may believe as well as hope, that you will never "*be left*"-handed. You have never tried to balk an adversary. If you haven't *pocketed* plenty of shekels, it has not been for want of skill, and opportunities, for you have been a highly "prized" man all your playing days. You need never take the hue of the white ball, from fear of an antagonist; nor blush like the red one at any fear of being overpraised. The Cue in your hand is like the baton in that of Napoleon—it points the path to Victory.

The Champion's Reply.

SIR:

I feel as if I have been playing all round the table, unable to make a carom. The superb Cue which you have placed in my hand, will stimulate me to continue my efforts to excel in the noble game. If in the coming time I shall receive challenges to compete with worthy opponents, I shall, more readily than ever, accept them. The knowledge of how highly you have approved of my playing and methods will give additional vigor to my arm, and I will feel that every well-played stroke will meet with your approval. We, Americans, are rapidly improving in every kind of game except "Bluff"—foreigners are fast taking the cake in that. In the Capital of the West, we displayed a degree of *Chic*-(ago), that must have astonished our visitor. But your kindness has made me talkative. May

you always find an opportunity to learn some of the many *Cue-rious points* at your favorite game.

Speech, with Prize, to Winners at Base Ball.

GENTLEMEN:

We often find enthusiastic writers addressing Mont Blanc as "monarch of mountains;" but I think more *highly* of the "'Appenines" as they loom up on the diamond field. "*Base* is the man who pays," was the old fraud's opinion; but our game is so square now-a-days, that we don't get *hit* by such a doctrine. If you continue such "play" as we have this day seen, you will always *catch* on to success. Your *pitcher* is always one that goes to the *well* without being broken; your *hitters* will easily *bat-ten* down the hatches of envy; your *Fielding* will quickly produce a *Found-ling*; the Vanderbilt *ball* don't begin to compare with Peck & Snyder's in beauty and usefulness; your *catchers* would be sure to catch larks if the clouds should fall. In short you appear to have efficiently aided in bringing Baseball to its present high *Rankin* our popular games. Any one who says aught against it, deserves to be hit with the biggest kind of a *Club*. Accept this prize as a sincere expression of our approval both of your play and work—though with you the words seem to be synonymous: so easy yet so vigorous are you in the field,

"That we deem you playing when you work.
And working when you play."

Reply of Captain of the Club.

SIR:

Your address has been a more "palpable *hit*" than we have ever made. For a short time the reckless behavior of a few black sheep, and the *base-less* fabrications of witless scribes, threw temporary discredit upon our profession. But the presence of thousands of our best people—ladies as well as gentlemen—at our tournaments, proves that the Game, as now honorably played, is the favorite out-door pastime of our people, of all grades and professions. We sincerely thank you, gentlemen, for the interest you have taken in our Club, and give you two-fold thanks for this kind recognition of them. May you always be as truly happy as you have made us on this occasion.

SPEECHES FOR "AFTER DINNER," AND OTHER FESTIVITIES.

In no part of the world is there so much dining, wining, and accompanying speechifying, as in these United States. While the heavy drinking has given place to more sensible quaffing of light beverages, the passion for post-prandial oratory has largely increased. Indeed, when the wine—not whiskey—is in, the wit appears far more plentiful, as well as more refined, than in "the good old colony days," and even still more recent times. Our country has produced many of the finest social speakers that ever "set the table in a roar" with their humor; or "sent their hearers weep-

ing to their beds" by their pathos. It is a most desirable quality to possess—that of delivering pat upon the spur of the moment, a happy address. But it is a qualification possessed by very few. The wise brain is seldom the accompaniment of the nimble tongue. Very many of the apparently impromptu speeches that seem to spring to life with the occasion, are carefully conned beforehand; and, when perfectly got by heart, and briskly delivered, cannot be told from the really Simon Pure article.

For the assistance of such persons we have prepared the Speeches that follow. Many of them can be delivered exactly as here printed, with the occasional insertion of some allusion to persons, or events, of local celebrity or notoriety. Others can be slightly added to, or diminished, as may seem adviseable. The person intending to use any of these speeches, should give them several rehearsals—so that they may come trippingly from the tongue.

Reply to the Toast "The Ladies."

MR. CHAIRMAN:

You have probably selected me to reply to this toast—supposing that the least fluent speaker would be rendered eloquent by such a gracious subject. But the reverse is the case. The superb possibilities of my theme overburden my poor faculties—for had I the "tongue of men and of angels" I should fail to do justice to the sex. Who can "add another perfume to

the violet" or by any ingenious process coin phrases sufficiently laudatory of woman: of whom the gifted Wallace has so truthfully written,

"The hand that rocks the cradle,
Rules the world!"

Moore has finely said of woman, that she was last at the cross, and first at the sepulchre. You will pardon me if I answer you in language more beautiful than I could possibly arrange. Scott says,

"Oh, Woman, in our hours of ease,
Coy, inconstant, hard to please,
Light and quivering as the shade
By the trembling aspen made.
When care and anguish wring the brow,
A ministering angel thou!"

Every one of us can recal among our friends some fair creature who only needs the occasion to prove her a Grace Darling, or like that other *Grace*, (the wife of one of the few honest Mayors the City of New York ever possessed;) others like that pure Nightingale, who preceded the other *nurse-lings* of that lovely flock that ministered to the Blue and the Gray. But I will not tire you by recounting what you all know, the manifold good deeds of women. Suffice it, that the beauties of their persons, fade beside the virtues of their hearts.

A Bachelor's reply to "The Ladies."

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Why I should be called on to reply to this toast is as great a puzzle as the famous *Thirteen*—but it is an *Eve-n* thing that some unfortunate wight has put up a job on me; as did the fox in the fable when he advised all other foxes to dispense with their caudal ap-

pendages, after he had lost his in a trap. (If there is "a chiel amang us takin' notes," he will please write *caudal*, not *caudle*, as there is a difference.) A bachelor's knowledge of the *dearer* sex is mainly his recollection of sundry spankings, intermingled with kissings; of being sent off to bed, just as his hero had got the red *injun* by the scalp-lock, because Cis's beau was expected to call; of having to hold a skein of scarlet stuff while a talkative lot of spinsters were spinning long *yarns*; of being asked by brother-in-law to go with his wife to a church-fair, as he (the brother-in-law) had to balance his books that evening. But, seriously, they are a mass of complex contradictions to our simple sex. How often does a man obtain a wife, and still get the *sack* (seal-skin.) It is *needless* to say aught of the mysteriouse *pin*-backs; while he is in the background when they make so much *bustle* about their trains. He has to just *skirt* round the darlings, for they are apt to *founce* about if we disarrange their dresses. But to be as glum as Burton in the "Serious Family." What could we do without them? Think of eating *two* saucers of ice-cream, alone; think of paying Mapleson five dollars to hear Patti, when for five dollars more, a beauty would "lend us her little pink ears." But I must pause—for if this speech gets into the papers, I'll get neither bed nor breakfast.

On Proposing the Health of an Entertainer.

GENTLEMEN:

Fill up your glasses, and to the very brim; for on this occasion there must be no scant measure. Fortunately you are so *well* acquainted—and I use the word

"well" in its best meaning—with the gentleman whose health I am about to propose, that any eulogy would be superfluous. Are your glasses right royally filled, gentlemen? Then I propose the health of the gentleman around whose hospitable walnut we are now so pleasantly enjoying ourselves: Perfect health and truest happiness to his whole family and himself: and may that kindness and generous treatment be meted out to him and his which he has so liberally bestowed upon others.

Reply.

MY FRIENDS:

It is said that out of the fullness of the heart, the mouth speaketh. But in my case it is not so: for so deeply was I affected by the utterance of what I know to be your sincere sentiments that the flow of words is impeded. I find my heart rising in my breast, as if eager to respond without waiting for the action of the lips. I have never been fond of a large circle of acquaintances; but, on the contrary, I have sought to have few friends—and sincere ones. Such I am satisfied, I have now about me. I have taken through life the sententious phrase of Polonius for my motto:

"The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried,
Grapple them to thy soul with hooks of steel."

Not tapestried on my walls, but frescoed on my heart.

I believe that the best part of life is that spent with a few well-chosen friends, not exactly of one way of thinking; but, while independent in their views and beliefs: still tolerant of each others variations from set opinions, and even hobbies. It goes without saying, that I fully return all your kind wishes for the prosperity of me and mine.

Speech Honoring a Guest.**SIR:**

I utter no mere complimentary phrase when I say that we feel fairly delighted at your presence in our midst at this time. Few men have distinguished themselves by such a number of qualities calculated to excite respect and admiration. It would be a work of needless iteration for me to enumerate the many acts and words by which you have lifted yourself above the plane of ordinary citizenship. Scarce one of us assembled here to-night to greet you, but is thoroughly conversant with every act of your busy public life. We appreciate fully your kindness in giving us your company; knowing well that almost every moment of your time is fully employed in some suitable way for the benefit of your fellow citizens.

Now, my friends, join me in drinking bumpers to the health of [*here insert name*], and may health and happiness, and the continued good opinion of his fellow citizens ever attend him.

Reply.**SIR:**

I am conscious that I have tried with all my best powers to deserve well of my fellow-citizens; and it would be ridiculous affectation in me to say that I do not feel much gratified at the cordial manner in which my health has been drank. And, also, at the complimentary remarks which your able chairman has seen proper to preface it with. Men in public life, even

when actuated by the best motives, often find their intentions thwarted by circumstances often unknown and undreamed of by outsiders. Frequently in such cases, silence is wisdom. One cannot button-hole his constituents, to explain all the apparently slight causes which oft times produce great results. He has only, as the boys roughly but expressively say, to grin and bear it. But you are not assembled here to-night to hear a lecture on state-craft, even if I was the one to give it to you. I will, therefore, bring my rambling remarks to a focus—by thanking you again, and again, and still again. At the same time asking you to join me in drinking health to all.

On Proposing the Chairman's Health.

GENTLEMEN :

The wisest body of men ever assembled is as useless and purposeless for proceeding in any given direction, as a ship is of sailing straight without a rudder. Her hull may be of faultless mould, and her rigging and sails all right, fore and aft, above and below—but unless her steering gear is perfect, her fine lines and well-set sails will only carry her the quicker to destruction. This being the case, we are not only lucky in having *a* Chairman; but doubly lucky in having such a Chairman. One with all the rules of model assemblies at his fingers-ends; but, also, possessing that evenly-balanced mind and calm temper, which never mistakes anger for decision, and stringency for firmness. In short, he has proved himself exactly the “right man in the right place.” The consequences

are that his decisions are bowed to without question, and the most irascible temper is soothed by his well-considered words—as the sea is rendered smooth by a surface of oil. It is only necessary to name the toast to make you hasten to fill, and drain bumpers: “Our Chairman’s Good Health.”

The Chairman’s Reply.

GENTLEMEN:

I have been so accustomed to having you obey my mandates, that I was somewhat surprised—not to say startled—at seeing you proceed to business, at your own sweet wills; having apparently no fears of me or my terrific gavel. Indeed, you seemed to be as little daunted at it, as Old Noll was at the Parliament’s mace, when he exclaimed, “take away that bauble!” But, all your proceedings have been so well conducted that I never once thought of calling you to order; and as to the “previous question,” I have really forgotten whether there is one or not; or whether any question at this time wouldn’t be deemed a little “too previous.” Gentlemen, I will, however, now resume my dignities, and seriously propose and order you to drink all your good healths, individually and collectively; and as the toast is to be drank by you *standing*—I think I have the best of you, once more, in being authorized to remain in the Chair.

Reply to the Toast, “The Press.”

GENTLEMEN:

I have been honored by a call to answer to this Toast. “The Press” can answer for itself. At the present time every kind of knowledge can be found in

the newspapers; and if there is some chaff mixed with the grain, each one can sift for himself. If a great crime has been committed, though a criminal fly to the uttermost parts of the earth, the cable sends the full account, and all the papers give his description before the culprit has reached the place of refuge—wherein he fancies is safety. If noble acts are done, the globe is instantly familiar with the names of Peabody, of Cooper, of Childs, of Corcoran—through the world-wide utterances of the Press. It is more useful in many ways than even the Police force. It has a great faculty for hearing and seeing every thing. We think we are alone with friends, yet there may be a reporter slyly taking notes, and at some future day we will see in print words that we had almost forgotten.

But the honest and the good do not fear “The Press;” only the evil-doers who can commit wrongs, and yet lack courage to bear the blame.

As the morning *Sun* and *Star*, *Herald* a fine day, as we *Dispatch*, by *Mercury*, as an avant *Courier*, the *News* of the *Times*; meanwhile the *Telegram* flashes with the swiftness of the *Eagle*, the *Truth* over all the *World*, reaching the remotest *Tribune*.

I conclude by wishing all honor and prosperity to “The Press”—and may it always have the courage to write “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,” on all occasions.

Answer to the Toast, “The Army.”

GENTLEMEN:

In some countries—Germany for instance—men are compelled by law to enter the regular army; here we

do so of our own free will—and where can a better army be found. At our great Military School—West Point—many of our noted generals were once cadets. If our Volunteers were called into action they would show in the future, as they have in the past, of what undaunted mettle they are composed. They have always “kept step” and “touched elbows” with our small, but gallant, regular army. We should never forget that most of the men who made forced marches to Victory, from Vera Cruz to the City of Mexico, were fresh from the farm, the plantation, the workbench, and the countinghouse. They appeared to understand the most vital tactics quite as well as foreign armies that had made fighting a trade, from boyhood.

Though we have no wish to become a nation of mere warriors; yet we stand always ready to defend our beloved country, when peril threatens her.

Reply to the Toast, “The Navy.”

GENTLEMEN :

If, indeed, “there’s a sweet little cherub aloft, that looks out for the life of poor Jack,” he has not neglected his duty, in piloting me into such hospitable anchorage, this evening. Our Navy, that for nearly a century, bore the Stars and Stripes triumphantly into every sea; the bright copper sheathing of our hulls cut through the icy barriers of the North Seas, weathered the simoon of the South, or managed to make headway through the lazy calms of the “doldrums,” are now either gone to Davy Jones’ locker, or to a still more hapless fate—gone to make fortunes for the junkmen, or are rotting in useless dockyards. We

have only one thing unimpaired in quality, though sadly diminished in numbers—*our seamen*. Like hearts of ever-green oak still beat, and are as ready as ever to point the guns, and grasp the pike or the cutlass. But, alas, the race of noble tars is fast running our, like the sand of the old fashioned hour glass. It looks as if some Delilah was put in commission to shear the locks from the Samson of the Seas, and pass him bound into the hands of the Philistines. Half a century ago, with our boundless forests of the best timber, and skillful shipwrights that knew better than any in the world to design a model and to wield the axe and the adze. Then every shipyard had its skillful *Steers-man*, and we could in a few months cover the seas with the swiftest and most beautiful ships that ever cut through the dark, blue billows. But now “things are not as they used to was.” We have the *hearts of steel* afloat, and, unfortunately, the *hands of steel* ashore. If the day comes, as come it may too soon—we will have to expend not merely “millions for defence;” but hundreds of millions. But do not imagine for an instant, that because the *wooden* walls have given place to the *iron* walls, there will be no more need of brave seamen and gallant officers. On the contrary, the officers and men will need to be as brave as our heroic Halls, and Brainbridges, and Decatur, and their fearless men before the masts. But, in addition, they will necessarily be obliged to possess much scientific knowledge, that was not at all needed by “the old sea-dogs” who made our naval annals such bright pages of the world’s history. For my ship-mates, and myself, I return you sincere thanks.

Congratulating a Bridegroom.

SIR:

We do not suppose that our congratulations can add to your happiness at present. But our hearts are with you on this occasion, and as "out of the heart the mouth speaketh," so we are impelled to wish you and your charming bride every happiness and blessing that Providence can bestow. But remember that you have a treasure given to your keeping; and let all clouds that will at times overshadow every life, find you fully prepared to shield her from all storms. I trust that my bachelor friends, around, will take notice of your happy looks, and realize the truthful import of that text, "it is not good for man to be alone," and haste to follow your excellent example. I will conclude by formally promising, what every one's countenance expresses: "Here is health and happiness to bride and bridegroom!"

Reply by the Groom.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

In answering for my partner and myself, I thank you for the good wishes uttered in your behalf, and fervently hope that you may all, through a long life, be as happy as we are at present. With so amiable and loving a companion at my side, you cannot expect me to manifest deep grief at parting from you all. On our return, we hope to welcome you at our residence. There we will show you how the kind wishes of our friends have been answered.

Another Speech to a Bridegroom.**SIR:**

Our worthy host will permit us on this occasion, to offer him our heartiest congratulations on this—we doubt not—the happiest event in his life. May the *honeymoon* that the young couple are just entering on, be life-long; or, if a few clouds must come to obscure the silvery beams of Luna, may they be brief and refreshing as the gentle showers of Spring, whose kindly mission is to refresh and sweeten the flowers. While the young couple are about entering on the primrose path, we trust that they will always find friendly hands to brush away all the thorns and briars that sometimes beset the smoothest ways. But journey withersoever you may be called, you will always find among us, the friends of your youthful days, welcome hands and affectionate hearts.

“Prosperity to our Sister Societies.”**MR. CHAIRMAN:**

I feel assured that all the gentlemen here assembled will cordially respond to my toast. We have among us, representatives of Societies like my own—with the same hope for the future welfare and abundant prosperity of their different social and charitable bands. We should be unsympathetic and uncourteous, if we failed to give a hearty reception to our guests to-night—a reception, not formal, and according to set precedent; but a reception in which the heart goes out with the hand. So, “Here’s to our Sister Societies—

may they long flourish; and abundantly prove by their manifold good works, their right to be prosperous."

Reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

We all thank you, and the different Societies which you so fittingly represent. Nothing can add a greater charm to these annual meetings than the presence of the representatives of Societies so different in nationality, name, and apparent objects; but all having one idea in common—the lessening of the sum of human wretchedness. To you all, individually, and in combination, let me wish a future far more prosperous and useful than even your worthy past.

SPEECHES OF CONGRATULATION.

It is *rarely* that this sort of thing is not *overdone*. These "talks" should be short as pie-crust, and, like Ornaments on Wedding Cakes, more notable for graceful design than for solidity and weight. How often have we seen some verbose vagabond, three *sheets* in the wind, depress a jovial company, by throwing the wet *blanket* of his eloquence (?) upon the heat of hilarity and the sparks of wit. Avoid making a *calf* of yourself by travelling in the old *cow*-paths. To enable

you to do the right thing in the right way, we furnish some suitable, brief, speeches.

For a Wedding Anniversary.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

As I look round I see many faces whose owners were present at the wedding celebration of our friends under whose roof we meet to-day. A glance at the faces of this couple tell us that, if storms have been in their life, they have passed, leaving no trace; and but sunshine is now to be seen. Surely such a pleasant sight as this will refute silly sneers at married life. That they have never regretted their choice in partners is evident, and we offer our heartfelt wish, that the close of their life will be as sunny and peaceful as the commencement.

The Husband's Reply.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

As I am the head, I must be spokesman for the firm. Thanking our friends for the good and earnest wishes they have bestowed on us—we can truly say that our life so far, has been a happy one. This pleasant result is no doubt owing to the fact that we are a well-matched team: willing to travel evenly in double harness, neither striving to be "leader." We are sincerely glad to welcome you all to our home to-night, and hope the next return of the anniversary will find us all in the same happy mood. I once more, in behalf of my wife and self, return you thanks.

Speech for a Wooden Wedding.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

There seems nothing left for our hostess and host to *pine* for, as the many gifts of friends are *pitched* upon the tables. Judging by our friend's face he certainly does not wear the *willow*; for he is as sturdy as the *oak*, and as *spruce* as though five years of wedlock had made him gain instead of lose youth. Although some thought he needed *boxing* to-night, yet we are glad his head is not wooden, nor his heart hooped till it becomes *pale*. We hope this pair will live to celebrate their wedding-anniversary day enriched with DRAMONDS.

Reply.

DEAR FRIENDS :

Accept the united and heartfelt thanks of the firm, for the glowing address you have given us; though I may appear dull and *bored*, it is because I feel myself no *match* for you in eloquence; yet we throw open our doors to your enjoyment with a great *deal* of pleasure. I *would* that every one was as *pop'lar* with their friends as we seem to be. You will find us as staunch as Old *Hickory*, and as strong as *Hazael*, in our friendship for you.

Speech for a Tin Wedding.

MY FRIENDS :

If after ten years of married life a couple invite all their friends to witness their happiness, and resolve

to start on another term, no better evidence is needed that their match "was made in heaven." In these days of ill-mated couples, when the marriage tie is so often and so easily unloosed, how much our friends are to be congratulated on their success in Matrimony. It is said to be a good thing to be enriched with plenty of "tin"—hence, our couple are highly favored, if we may form an opinion from the heap of shining utensils before them. May the years glide away so smoothly, that as each station is reached, no jar will tell of their arrival; and the metal will gradually take on a "golden" hue, before they are aware of Time's flight.

The Husband's Reply.

DEAR FRIENDS :

If my words are few, 'tis because my heart is too full for utterance, and my bride and I feel overwhelmed with the attentions and kindness of so many true friends as we now see gathered around us. As we look on the glistening gifts, we see reflected in them the bright eyes and loving hands of the givers; and long after the gift-articles themselves have become tarnished and useless, will kindly recollections of the donors remain in our hearts. Asking you to make our house your home, this evening, we will now proceed to give you a specimen of our house-keeping hospitalities.

Speech at a Crystal Wedding.

FRIENDS :

At first it seems an inappropriate idea to select so fragile and brittle a material as *glass* to typify a happy

degree in the matrimonial barometer. But *glass* has many qualities besides fragility and brittleness. It is the purest of all materials, and constantly reminds us that while a breath will tarnish it, the most delicate napkin will brighten it with a touch. It is through *glass* that the sun throws his fair rays upon the infant's christening; upon the wedding-ceremony, the flow of brilliant light falls through golden-tinted *glass*; and the mellow hues of sombre autumnal brown fall through shadowy panes upon the burial service. But the graceful, tapering wine-glass, the emblem of moderate joviality, is also of crystal; and even the *steins* of our convivial German friends, have given place to the transparent *glass*. As in the looking-glass the might of manhood and the winsome ways of womanhood are duplicated; let it be a hopeful emblem that in this Crystal Wedding the good fortune and happiness of our friends may be doubled.

The Husband's Reply.

KIND FRIENDS:

Your generous motives for thus showering your gifts and good wishes upon us is too *transparent* to be mistaken: they are *mirrored* in your happy faces. You are of that scarce quality of friends that look at faults through *diminishing*, and at virtues through *magnifying-glasses*. Hence the favorable light in which you view us. That our married life has been a happy one, is in no little degree owing to the excel-

lent examples of a true matrimonial existence given us by many of the united couples present with us on this happy occasion; and whose loveable traits we have essayed to make our models. Consequently we have not spent much time gazing in "the *glass* of fashion," to the neglect of home duties and simple enjoyments. And now you have our sincerest thanks, for honoring us with your company, and bestowing so many valuable presents on us.

Speech for a Silver Wedding.

FRIENDS:

When a couple have lived together for twenty-five years, they certainly should know something about matrimony. They, also, prove that the storms and clouds, have been few in their horizon; or else that the pure wind and bright sunshine have dissipated or neutralized them. It would be almost impossible to find a happier-looking pair than our friends, whose Silver Wedding we are here to-night to celebrate. Even Time has dealt gently with them, for their hair is but slightly *silvered*, and their faces so lightly touched by his pencil, that we can scarcely realize a quarter of a century has elapsed since our friends pledged their vows before the altar. May their future be as bright and unsullied as the valuable, shining gifts that loving hands have placed before them, this night. They enjoy the happiness resulting from mutual trust and love: a happiness that fame and wealth can never bestow.

The Husband's Reply.

MY KIND FRIENDS :

I feel unable to do justice to you, for the gratifying words and many substantial articles which you have brought to-night. My wife and I are thankful that we have been spared for this day. When clouds have arisen—as in all lives—the sunshine of confidence and affection has driven all darkness away. And we trust that our Golden Wedding will find us still ready, as now, with *silvery* tones to greet our ever-welcome friends.

Speech for a Golden Wedding.

DEAR OLD FRIENDS :

Fifty years! What a long time to look forward to, and, yet, I suppose our dear friends, whose half-century wedding celebration is to-night, look back thinking how fleetly time has sped. Though changed—as all must be by the flight of years—yet we are confident that their hearts are untouched by the nipping frosts of Time. Affection will never grow old-fashioned. Some witless worldlings may sneer at it—but when—as to-night—it shows how it has borne the jolts and jars of contact with the world, and remain as true and loving as ever, the scoffers must hide their profane heads, and silence their mendacious tongues. As they gather into swelling sheaves, the golden harvest that a useful life has sown, we are happy to assist by presenting some little tributes of our love and esteem; which we beg them to accept as coming from warm and sincere hearts.

Reply by the Husband.

KIND FRIENDS:

It is said, "Silence is *Golden*," and I am glad of it; for I am but a poor speech-maker. But my dear friends must *think* how glad we are to see them, and listen to their welcome words of friendship. That I have gained a prize in the lottery of marriage, I am certain, and I advise all bachelors, young and old, to try their luck, and they may have the same good fortune. And now, to wind up my short address, be assured that,

"Never shall my soul forget,
The friends I found so cordial-hearted."

Speech for a Boy's Christening.

DEAR FRIENDS:

As we look on the unconscious babe before us, we wonder what his destiny will be. As all parents are said to see in their sons, good and great men, we hope the same for our baby host. Let our young friend grow up honorable and brave, scorning meanness and detesting baseness, as deadly enemies. Let him take a George Washington and a Simon Bolivar as his models, and he cannot fail to be a *good* man: and all needed greatness necessarily follows. But, one word to the parents: "as you train a child, so will he grow" —if your influence is always for the best; your government firm, but loving; you can have a son ever an honor to you, and a blessing to the world. As he is too young to make a speech, we will drink to his growing up in health, prosperity, and honor.

The Father's Reply.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

In behalf of our young son, I thank you for the kind wishes, you have so feelingly uttered. My wife and I try to fully realize the great responsibility now placed upon us; and with God's help, will do our very best to bring our boy up to be a good and great man. As he grows older we will tell him, how his parents' many friends expressed the kindest wishes for him at his Christening. Whatever position he may be called upon to fill, we trust him to a loving Providence, and feel assured we will be able to say, "All's Well!"

Speech at a Girl's Christening.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Though the fair sex are said never to be at a loss for an answer, I am sure this young lady cannot verify this assertion. Perhaps in the future she may keep up the tradition; yet now all to be heard is a, more or less, faint cry—which to ears not the parents, is scarcely musical—yet in that little wailing cry may be the rudimentary notes of a Jenny Lind or an Adelina Patti. As we look upon this human flower, we wonder what the future has in store for her; and silently though sincerely pray that she may be a comfort, a joy, an honor to her parents, who stand so becomingly proud of this, their first-born. But she will be watched over by one who tenderly said, "Suffer little children to come unto me." But unconscious of all around she lies like a pure, little rose-bud, faintly flushed with sleep, looking too soft and lovely to pass through the thorns of life.

The Father's Answer.

KIND FRIENDS:

On behalf of our little daughter, we thank you, and our other kind friends, for the deep interest you have manifested in her. We hope she will soon be able to speak for herself, as female-babies are not generally tongue-tied. We hope this natural fluency will be put to the best use. I can promise, we will do all in our power to make her a noble woman, an honor to her people, and a comfort to her mother and myself. We deeply feel the responsible charge placed in our care, and will, with heaven's aid, teach her to walk in the right path.

For a Birthday Party.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

That the years which have gone have left little trace of their visit on our friend, is very readily seen; and he has our best wishes that every birthday will find him looking as well as he does to-day. As he journeys through life, may he find the "stepping-stones" made sure for his feet; and may he never drink from the waters of bitterness, but every drop be purified by the love of his friends. And when he has reached the last station, and the time has come to bid good bye to all, may we finally meet where there will be no separation.

Response.**FRIENDS :**

It would take more years than I number, to fully express my gratitude for the kind wishes of you all. I most sincerely trust that this may not be the last of our meetings to celebrate my birth. No matter what changes take place, your kindness will never be forgotten; and I now ask permission to drink to your health and prosperity, as sincerely as you have to mine.

Speech to a Man reaching One-and-Twenty.**DEAR FRIEND :**

What young man does not eagerly look forward to the time when he will be one-and-twenty. Then every thing seems to be rose-color; "life," thinks he, "will be glorious, when I am my own master." But the "coming of age" brings its own cares; for if at that time a young man does not feel the responsibility upon him, and lives a careless life: his majority will not prove, by any means, a blessing. But we know that our young friend has thoughts of the grave nature of the tasks imposed by his reaching man's estate; and will be likely to avoid all pitfalls waiting for the feet of the unwary. His travel onwards will be very happy if our wishes can bespeak unclouded skies, and roads paved with innocent pleasures. We pledge him our affection, esteem, and help, if needed, in these coming years.

Response.

I think you have looked upon my faults with too indulgent eyes; for I am not conceited enough to imagine that I deserve all the many kind remarks uttered in my favor; but I hope to realize them in the future. My actions, in the days to come, must speak for me, and show that your trust is not misplaced. I hope to do my duty to all, as becomes an honest man and a gentleman. Believe me, I shall often look back with pleasure to this time—when my advent upon manhood was cheered with so many smiles, and good wishes. And now, gentlemen, here's to your health and happiness.

Speech to a Candidate on his Nomination.

SIR:

In selecting your name for nomination, we feel sure that no disappointment will ensue. We are determined to spare no efforts from now until the Polls close upon Election Day, to secure your election. It required careful examination and consideration before fixing upon a person suitable to fill the position for which we have nominated you; and we feel confident that we have in you the right man. Hoping that Victory will be ours, and that our next call—when the struggle is over—will be to congratulate you on your success, we respectfully tender you the nomination.

Response.

GENTLEMEN:

If the brave are defeated no dishonor is attached to their name; so if I am defeated in your company I shall still be respected. But how can I think of defeat, with such staunch hearts around me as the voters of this district. Your visit to me, to announce my nomination, is a glad surprise, and I accept with grateful heart. Though I may lack some qualities necessary for the office, yet with a desire to do my duty, and energy and diligence to assist me, I feel I shall surely succeed. In so good a cause as ours, every effort should be made to win the fight. Once more thanking you, gentlemen, for the great honor conferred—"we will strike while the iron is hot," and proceed vigorously to work.

Speech at a Serenade.

GENTLEMEN:

As I listened to the melody, which has enticed me out to-night, I think that every note is sounded for the true cause. I hear in the cornet's ringing sound the trumpet-call to victory; in the soft flute's, the mellow notes of peace which should hover over our land. It is important that our adversaries should have our political creed plainly, clearly and dispassionately explained to them—for, bear in mind, that nothing is gained, and very much lost, by an argument delivered in a heated or stubborn manner. Many thanks for this melodious treat, and the honor implied in giving it. Let us be prepared to do our duty in the coming conflict, and ever "keep step to the music of the Union."

Speech to an Elected Candidate.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

We come with joyful hearts, now that the struggle is over, and our side victorious, to congratulate you on the victory we have achieved. We think our political views are right: and though we sympathize with our opponents in their defeat, still we can imagine that this may be a lesson teaching them to see and turn from the errors of their ways. We have all done our best to win this victory; and the result well repays us for any annoyances during the contest. Now, are we, in truth, doubly victorious, inasmuch as our side has resorted to no unfair means to gain the election; the private character of the opposing candidate hasn't once been alluded to. We have trusted entirely to exposing sophistries in doctrine, and laying glaring evidence of misrule before the honest voters. Ere we part, let us give three cheers for our victorious standard-bearer.

Answer.

MY VICTORIOUS FRIENDS:

My whole heart has been with you through this protracted struggle; and now that we can "rest upon our laurels," I will say that in the future, as in the past, I will use my best endeavors for the good of my countrymen. I shall carefully endeavor so to act, that my conduct will justify you in electing me. I need hardly say that anything that I can do—consistent with my honor—to oblige any of my constituents, that I will cheerfully do.

Speech to a Friend Going Abroad.

MY FRIENDS:

Although it is with sorrow, that we take leave of our friend, yet "what is our loss, is his gain;" and we wish him a safe and pleasant trip, trusting that he will soon return to us—full of health and happiness. That he will profit by his stay in other countries, we all know; and we could not have a better representative of our country than can be found in him. We know he will make friends wherever he goes, and that they will be as loth to let him part from them, as we are to lose him even temporarily. That he will not forget us in his new surroundings, we feel assured; for such is the constant nature of his heart, that with him "once a friend, always a friend."

The Friend's Answer.

KIND FRIENDS:

Believe me, never can I forget you. My voyage will be brightened, knowing that those I left behind are sending their best wishes for my safe arrival on the other side of the big pond. I cannot expect to find any who will have a warmer place in my affections than you all. If I return, I hope to bring many little souvenirs of my travels, for my friends, and thus verify the phrase, that "absence makes the heart grow fonder."

On a Friend's Return.

DEAR SIR:

In our gladness at welcoming you back to your own home, we almost forget how long a time has elapsed

since you left us, to gaze upon the wonders of foreign countries. That the voyage has been beneficial to you is evident by the health and pleasure beaming in your countenance. It is with deep affection that we take you by the hand once more, and the glasses filled and drained to-night to your prosperity, were never emptied with greater heartiness than now. We anticipate great treats at some future time, in listening to your graphic accounts of things, places and people in the old world; as your mind is like a well-known bivalve: retaining everything healthy and rejecting all that is injurious. We are satisfied that whether you have lingered amid classic ruins or 'neath gothic arches: among modern industries, or the financial centres; your heart has often and longingly turned to your native land.

Reply.

KIND FRIENDS:

How sad for the one who, after a travel in foreign lands, returns to find some of his kin or friends gone to that "bourne from whence no traveller returns." I am so blessed as to find all, kin, friends, and acquaintances, looking in the best of health; and every one of them ready, nay eager, to welcome me "Home Again!" During my absence, when admiring the varied wonders and beauties of the places through which I passed, how often thoughts of home, and friends, would arise. At such times I wished that you could be with me. Such a welcome home as you have given me, compensates fully for any discomforts of the return passage.

For a Fourth of July Dinner.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

What can be a better subject for this day than the Prosperity of the Nation. Over one hundred years have passed since we became a free nation, and such we have remained ever since. But the present does not seem like the "good old times," when gunpowder, in its manifold noisy forms, were the principal events of the day; and there was a strange delight to boys in risking life and limbs, by exploding some old rusty pistol or gun, and really thinking the more noise the more patriotism. Now-a-days we are a quiet going people—the day comes and goes with only a few spurts of harmless squibs, crackers, and torpedoes—that appear ashamed at the little noise they make. At no very distant Fourth of July, men and women will read of kings, queens, and emperors, with wonder that the people could put up with such despotic rulers, and be thankful that they are FREE. To none but captives does that little word, however, convey its full meaning. To none but those who know what it is to sigh in vain for freedom, can the word find its profoundest echo. Well may we be proud of our country, when we think through the heat of what a furnace she has passed, and that no smell of the smoke, no taint of disgrace, has attached to her garments. When we recall what awful trials and heavy burdens have been hers, ere she has come to be what she now is. When foreign lands that were old ere we were born, look towards us for suggestions, and copy many of our improvements. Not only have our mechanical inventions borne away the first prizes given by great Expo-

sitions in Europe, Australia, and many parts of this Continent; but we were the first to practically demonstrate that we could add myriads of fish to the natural production of lakes, rivers and oceans. Meanwhile our Political Institutions have been a blessing to every people that adopted them in good faith, and without tampering with the glorious original.

At a Thanksgiving Banquet.

DEAR FRIENDS:

What a day for family reunion, when even the turkey feels tender, the pies know they are some *pumpkins*, and are not *squashed*, or made into *mince meat*, by what are not very *small potatoes*; the cranberries are more *saucey* than ever; the *coffee* will not be *teased*; or the biscuits be anything but well *bred* on this joyful day.

The farmer offers true Thanksgiving as he sees around his well-spread table, a happy group of dear relations, ready to partake of the "fruits of the earth." No matter if the day is cold or wet; the gratitude in all hearts will keep their owners from feeling the inclement weather—and to the happy everything is fair. So let us all render a fervent Thanksgiving to the Creator and Preserver of all things, for His loving protection of us during the past year, and for the bountiful gifts now before us.

Another Thanksgiving Speech.

DEAR FRIENDS:

Could the Fathers of this Republic look down from their abode of happiness, where we hope they are re

ceiving the glorious reward for the "deeds done in the flesh;" deeds, that under God's blessing, has raised the stone rejected of the builders, into being the corner stone (be it said without boasting) of civilization. No land under the sun was ever blessed with such a redundancy of all that goes to make up physical well-being. North, South, East and West, are teeming with everything needed to make earthly happiness. And if a small fraction of our people suffer from want and sickness, it adds somewhat to our happiness that we are able to relieve them. But I find that I am making a homily, when I only meant to utter a blessing. So begin, good friends, and prove by your appetites that you deserve this dinner.

Speech for a Christmas Party.

MY FRIENDS:

How sad the thought that Christmas is, as some say, being done away with. Why, what would we do without our loved ones on that day—the plum-puddings, and jolly ribs of roast beef—the giving and receiving of presents? One half the light of life would be gone. May our friends, who entertain us so bountifully to-day, be the last to give up the old, old custom of honoring Christmas. If good Father Christmas is banished, what is to become of Santa Claus, so dear to the hearts of the young? No, let us earnestly petition that no such disposal of this dearest of all Festivals shall be made. If our host and hostess are for this banishing, they should not have offered such a tempting banquet to their guests, for now we will be

compelled, more than ever, to exclaim: "Here's long life to Old Father Christmas!"

Speech for a St. Patrick's Dinner.

KIND FRIENDS:

I thank you, with all my heart, for the generous manner with which you greeted the toast to the memory of the Patron Saint of my native land. Although by the merry twinkle in some of your eyes, I have no doubt you expected I would indulge in a little of the badinage and drollery that have come to be considered essential part of the nature of an Irishman. But, Mr. President, when I look upon the scenes that have recently been enacted in that still beautiful, but sorrow-stricken island, the smiles too readily change to tears. I lift my eyes from the soil where the red is above the green—the red blood of the victims blotting the green of the shamrock. I lift my eyes from earth, to gaze into the blue heavens, with a sort of hopeless hope that I might discern the august figure of the Saint of the Green Isle, prone before the holy ones, crying: "How long; oh, how long, is this to continue? Give us loving kindness for this fratricidal hate. Put it into the hearts of rulers to deal justly with a people, susceptible to kindness: but inaccessible to fear!" Even at this late day—if men would but think for themselves, and act for themselves—Erin might in the present and the future, as she did in the past, glorify the nations with a "sunburst" of intellectual radiance, and initiate a state of comfort and plenty, that would add a new pleasure to the heart of St. Patrick, even among the joys of Paradise.

Speech for Eighth of January.**FELLOW CITIZENS:**

"Peace hath her victories, no less renowned than War," has been truly written. This battle was a case in point. For glorious as it was, it was almost needless. Peace with England had been restored some days before it was fought. But though for the purpose of compelling a peace, it was unnecessary—it was eminently useful in the lesson it taught us as victors; as well as that it taught England as the defeated. The day of battle broke with an almost certainty that victory must perch on the standard of the enemy. For General Packenham led a force, almost every man of which had crossed weapons with the conquerors of Europe; while the leaders, from the generals down to the lieutenants, were brave and trained to war. Opposed to them were soldiers and officers, who had very little training in marching, countermarching, loading, firing, and fixing bayonets, in unison. But there was one point in which they were bound to act with one accord—they were set in their resolve to defend New Orleans till the victory was assured, or the last bullet had been sent in search of its billet. Old Hickory stood like one of the tallest and straightest trees of his grand native forests, and the stalwart militiamen, who stood beside him, made such a fight on that glorious day, as made it justly one of our greatest national holidays.

Speech for Washington's Birthday.**FELLOW CITIZENS:**

It shows what a hold Washington must have upon the people when there is no end to the praise bestowed

on him—but as there is no phrase of eulogy unused, I shall not take up your time. As long as patriotism lives in the hearts of our countrymen so long will Washington's birthday be kept in loving recollection. Now that we reap the benefit of being free, should we forget one whose courage and moral conduct helped to place us independent of the whole world. Let all good citizens raise their glasses to their lips and drink to the loved name of George Washington.

Speech of Fourth of July, in a Foreign Land.

FELLOW CITIZENS :

Though far away from the giant trees and rocky peaks over which soars the American eagle, yet we can in imagination, hear the flappings of his wings, and his shrill, ear-piercing scream, under his native skies. But we, "by the rocket's red glare" see unfamiliar things around us. Yet if a will and purpose to celebrate "Our Glorious Fourth" can compensate for lack of numbers, this meeting will be a grand success. As we look up, and see the Stars and Stripes floating from our window; we proudly think of the majestic celebrations at home, this day. Knowing that in America, whether wine or water touches the lips, all hearts respond to the patriotic toast, "the Day we celebrate."

Speech at a Sunday School Picnic.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS :

We have come to-day to enjoy ourselves in innocent amusements. Only think—once there was no Sunday

School; and when the first were opened, there were no attractions to bring the young, and make religion a pleasure as well as a duty.

No music to add to the effect of the sweet young voices, rising and falling as the hymns floated upward to His throne. Who that has seen little children on their way to the school, or sitting with their teachers and companions, with smiling faces; but will say "blessed are the Sunday Schools." But as we are here for pleasure, I will not detain you longer; but hope you will all fully enjoy the holiday, and return safe and happy to your homes, thanking Our Father for his protection and care of you throughout the day.

Opening Speech at a Charity Fair.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

As we look around these rooms, filled with so many useful as well as ornamental articles, we cannot help thinking what magic works kind hearts and willing hands can form. The ladies enter into their parts as merchants with all the spirit and emulation displayed by the genuine dealers, and rivalry exists, though in a friendly manner. There is something in the word "Charity," that appeals to every one. Even the miser is sometimes moved to part with some of his coins in that blessed name. But as you all seem anxious to lighten your purses, I will not keep you from your good work; but conclude with asking our friends to remember that amid the virtues, "the greatest of all these is Charity."

SPEECHES ON OCCASIONS OF WELCOME.

It is a very pleasing fact, that, notwithstanding our reputed love of the "almighty dollar," we indulge in more friendly re-unions than any other people. We are seldom at a loss for a reason to have a social gathering. Our Firemen have their Tournaments; our Farmers their Fairs; our Athletic and other Clubs their annual or more frequent meetings; our Riflemen their Field-Days. In fact, not a day—scarcely an hour passes, but some parties, more or less serious or convivial, are drawn together by some intellectual or festive reason. To meet the requirements for such occasions, it is well for every member to have a small—but well-fitting—Speech "to the fore;" and in the following pages we furnish some "specimen bricks."

Speech to a Visiting Military Corps.

COMRADES :

In behalf of my command, I offer a cordial welcome to you all, from the highest to the lowest in rank, and we will try to prove how pleased we are at your visit, by trying to make the time pass pleasantly. All that is worth seeing in this place, we will take the greatest pleasure in showing to you, and for awhile we will forget all "stern alarms"—we will do away with all strict military rules, and meet each other as loved re-

lations, after a separation, and though we should fire an artillery-salute of promises, we could do no more than our heart now prompts.

Reply of the Commander.

COMRADES:

The hospitality of this corps and its officers have been long well known; and it is now our good fortune to be ranked among its guests, and participate at its generous mess-table. In behalf of my comrades, and for myself, I will say that we meet you half-way: you show that we are welcome, and we yield ourselves prisoners with a willing grace.

Visit of a Fire Company.

GENTLEMEN:

I feel honored at being selected to welcome you—which I do most cordially, for my associates and myself. Though I do not know you personally, yet we are of the same brotherhood. In our profession, coolness, courage, and unselfishness are necessary qualifications. And if to his share some venial faults may fall—scan his brave deeds, and you'll forget them all. But we now invite you to assist at demolishing all set before you; promising our merriment will not be extinguished by "cold water" being thrown on it.

Reply of the Foreman.

SIR:

While grasping the friendly hands so readily extended to us, we feel, indeed, as if we were not only old,

but good friends. We have the same interests at heart, and feel the same thrill of joy when we are the means of saving human life from a terrible death. Although we have improved on the old style, still there was a noble impulse among the "boys" when the cry of fire resounded through the night air. Then willing hands grasped the rope, and rushed to fight the flames. But let us once more heartily thank you for your kind reception, and believe its recollection will ever remain with us.

Speech at Reception of a Base Ball Club.

GENTLEMEN:

If we do not give you a hearty reception, it will be the *first base* action we have been guilty of. To make the time *fly*, and prevent sighs for *home runs*, will be our *aim*. To *battle* with all the good things arranged before you, to empty the *pitcher*, and *catch* on to every thing you see, is the *position* we place you in. So let us proceed to keep the *ball* a-rolling on our *field* of pleasure.

Reply by Captain of the Club.

GENTLEMEN:

How true it is that 'in the eye their lies the heart,' for one glance tells us you are sincere in all your utterances; and we are pleased to accept your welcome. If in our friendly games from the *start* we are *beaten*, we will resign ourselves prisoners with a good grace. We are honored by the position, in which you place us, and wish we could *stretch* our visit to a longer pe-

riod. But as long as we are on this terrestrial *ball*, we will not be so *base* as to forget this kindness—and may our pleasures not come to a full *stop*.

Reception Address to a Boat Club.

GENTLEMEN:

Welcome—a hearty welcome! We will endeavor to make your visit agreeable. If you wish to visit our rivers, “we will sail over the summer sea;” if the forests, we are on hand, or rather on foot, for the same. Should it be fishing, we will throw out our grapnels, and trust your *lines* will fall in pleasant places, and that it will be your *sole* business to *plaiice* lots of the *finny* tribes before you suffer any *abatement* in your piscatorial fervor.

Quite a change has come over boating races of late. Ladies take almost as *deep* an interest in such affairs, as they used to in other *crewel* operations, they are as fond now-a-days of *feathering* their *spruce* skulls, as the jolliest young waterman; their favorite *color* must often win, for they have such *win-some* ways.

To show that a sturdy arm may be the accompaniment of a learned *skull*, should be our best stroke in life. We, once more, heartily welcome you.

Reply.

MY FRIENDS:

We truthfully assure you that we expected this cordial greeting. You have received us so warmly that we feel quite at home, and hasten to accept and ac-

knowledge your hospitality. Though our stay must be brief, we intend that nothing in our conduct shall *thwart* your hospitable intentions. We shall, no fear, enjoy ourselves, taking care never to *get beyond our depth*.

Recreation is needed by every one, and if it is useful as well as pleasant, so much the better. We will be glad to glide over the silent waters with you, or "paddle our own canoe." Now, however, we will *rest on our oars* letting you *pull us down the stream*.

Cricket Club Reception Address.

GENTLEMEN :

Allow us to extend a hearty welcome, and truly say we are glad to see you looking as "lively as crickets." We welcome you to *hearth* and home, giving you the best time you ever made. We will not make a *stump* speech, but merely *chirp* our regards.

But we must now make a *stop*, letting you have the *field*, for we do not wish to *put you out* from making a reply.

Reply.

GENTLEMEN :

Nothing tends more to produce a brotherly feeling than a participation in the same kind of open-air sports. If a warrior loves to meet a foe that's worthy of his steel, how much more pleasant it is to meet in generous rivalry, one who is worthy of his *willow*. We expect to enjoy ourselves hugely. We fully and feel-

ingly respond to your generous welcome, and trust you will soon arrange to visit us, and let the return game of hospitalities be as pleasant to you.

Temperance Reception Speech.

DEAR FRIENDS:

In receiving you with genuine hospitality let us invite you "to a feast of *reason*, and a flow of *soul*," where "no rude surfeit reigns." We may be too retiring: perhaps if we made the same show that some other societies do, with bands playing, flags flying, and large bodies of men parading the streets, the masses might be reached, and many added to our list.

But we don't easily get discouraged, for "Conquer we must, for our cause it is just," and the smiles of the widows and orphans repay us for the sneers of our enemies. We give to you our sympathy and aid in crushing the demon who robs us of home and family, and welcome you heartily.

Reply of the President.

KIND FRIENDS:

As the President of this Association, I am asked to thank you for your gratifying reception. When we retire for the night, we can pass the dark hours in placid repose, untormented by rum-generated terrors, and the next morning we can rise, ready for the day's duties without needing "an eye-opener." A clear head telling that no vital-burning fluid had been consumed by us. In the rude battle of life the poor toper gets no rest, either night or day.

SPEECHES RELATING TO POLITICS.

Every Election, like every new moon, puts a new face upon affairs generally. Such being the case it is clearly impossible to forecast to-day, what will be the exciting subject that is going "to ruin the country" unless *John Doe* is elected, and *Richard Roe* defeated. We can consequently only shadow forth the form in which Speeches and Replies, are to be arranged on such occasions. Upon the framework which we furnish, the intended political orator can hang any arguments, that his own imagination or the journals of the day, may furnish him with.

Nominating Committee's Announcement.

SIR :

The Convention which held its meeting at ———, on ———, appointed us to officially inform you, that you had been chosen as their candidate, to fill the office of ———. We feel something more than pleasure, we are intensely delighted, that the choice of the Convention has fallen upon you. For we realize that you have just the qualities desirable in a man to fill the position. You are known to be capable, you have proved yourself honest; and your affability is so well known, that your opponents—for you have no enemies—acknowledge your merits as a man; even while they differ from you as a politician.

The Convention is a unit in determining to elect you, if it can be done by fair means; and that they

will succeed is sufficiently proven by the enthusiasm with which your nomination was hailed both in the Convention, and by the party at large.

We soon hope to call on you again, to congratulate you on your victory.

Greeting to a Winning Candidate.

SIR:

We have been delegated by a large number of your political adherents and friends, to greet you as a victor. The returns already in, convince us that your worth has been fully appreciated by your fellow citizens, and they have by their votes this day, set the seal of approbation upon your deserts and character. In vain did our opponents resort to every trick, machination, and dishonorable strategy in order to defeat our ticket. But at the closing of the polls, they all closed their mouths—and, wisely for them, gave rest to the tongues that had during the campaign wagged ceaselessly in a round of misrepresentations and devilish fabrications. We are glad to see, however, that the better class of our opponents looked cheerful even when your success was assured—they, doubtless, very properly reasoned that, after all, their party's defeat was a blessing in disguise.

The Candidate's Reply.

GENTLEMEN:

I thank you personally and collectively, and through you the party you represent. I am, I own, heartily

pleased at this result for several reasons. It is the triumph of sound sense and true patriotism over ignorance and lack of sincere love of country. It is the victory of fair dealing and open methods, over venality and dark, tortuous, evil ways. And to me, personally, it is the proudest of triumphs: for have not my fellow-citizens, after a careful scrutiny—in which my opponents used a microscope to look at my good actions, and a telescope to look at my presumed faults)—pronounced me worthy of their trust. I will only detain you, on this occasion, to say that I will show my gratitude by proving that I am not unworthy of the favors that you have heaped on my head. In a few days I will communicate with you at greater length.

Funny Speech for a Political Victory.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

We have met the enemy—and they have retired. They have gone a-prospectin' up that saline stream, hearty gulps of which will we hope cure the wounds which 'the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune' have inflicted upon their rear-guard; for they never showed their faces to us. Never was such a disastrous defeat inflicted upon over-sanguine warriors. Bonaparte's Moscow and Napoleon's Sedan, were very small potatoes compared to the way our enemies took the socdologers of fortune. They came after our scalps, yelling, and hooting like ten thousand demons, and they went back without them, with poor-men's plasters, profusely decorating them. They came in search of wool, and have gone home shorn as close as

a dude's head. Their songs of triumph have been changed to wails of dismay. *They* went off, instead of their revolvers. Their commissariat is without biscuit; their artillery without wheels; but their pannikins have still some of the rot-gut that gave them such braggadocia courage when the enemy was out of sight. We have *spoiled* them so effectually that, like the Chinese, they can only console themselves by throwing aroma-pots, and shouting lugubriously, "to the victors belong the spoils!"

A Party Speech Before Election.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

You have sent for me, and I have come; as I always will come at your call. You ask me to cheer you with the words of confidence. I may truly say, with the gallant Rolla, "Never was the hour of battle near, when to inspire, words were so little needed." You have all the prime qualities to insure victory. Your cause is right, as if every item of it had been weighed in the scales of justice. Your candidates are unimpeachable for honesty, unrivalled for ability, unmatched for popularity. You have the best wishes of the best men in the community for your success. Your victory will be the triumph of principle over prejudice; of order over disorder; of honesty over fraud. Such my friends, are the reasons why we ought to be victorious, and I have far too much confidence in the discrimination and probity of my fellow-citizens to suppose for one moment that such a programme of chicanery as our enemies present, can even for a moment, attract attention, much less carry a majority of votes in this community.

FREE AND EASY SPEECHES ON MANY TOPICS

To be a good off-hand speaker, one would need to be able to speak as Hood and Holmes write. This faculty has rarely, if ever, been accorded to any man, however witty. Nearly every famous *impromptu* speech has been more or less studied. It is unsafe to go into the battle, armed only, like Samson, with the jaw-bone of an ass. One nice little speech carefully conned, and delivered with a seeming careless air, will often prove much more pleasing and effective than a halting, stammering, original one, delivered by the greatest wit, if he breaks down in the delivery. As a magnificent crystal goblet will break in more pieces than a little brown jug, if it gets a fall.

Apology for Being Unable to Sing.

GENTLEMEN:

You ask for one song ; adding, that will be the only one I am to sing. I am afraid you are right. Should I comply, you would justly own my voice was a real *false* *setto*, not a true note in the whole gamut. Have you ever heard a child draw a pencil over a slate? that is sweet music to what my singing is. Being prevailed upon to sing one evening, I found myself the only one left in the room. As I do not wish to deprive our hostess of her guests, I will refrain, and listen to those who are "Children of Song." indeed

Answer to Toast, "Sweethearts and Wives."

MY FRIENDS:

As so few of our sweethearts become our wives, we must take them separately.

That the ladies are all angels before marriage, we know; and trust they will always remain so. Our sweethearts believe all we tell them, and we always speak the truth. Sweethearts are not so curious as wives, and are always glad to see us.

So we will drink to them, all. I see many before me who look quite *sheepish*, though they are no doubt, thinking of their *dears*—so in behalf of the absent, and fairer portion of humanity, I say, "Drink, brothers, drink."

What a treasure a good wife is, how careful of us: smoothing our paths, as we travel onward to the end of life's journey. Sometimes giving us a gentle overhauling; but as it is generally for our good, we submit, with man's usual gracious patience. When we return home, in the "we sma' hours," who but a wife sits up for us; who but she tells us blandly what she thinks of our actions. Our wives not being present to cheer us on, we will have to, unsolicited, drink to our "Sweethearts and Wives."

Speech for a House Warming.

MY FRIENDS:

In the olden time, in the country—when houses were made of wood, and neighbors all helped to build—when the last nail was driven, and all completed, was a jolly time, indeed. For miles around they had

come to join in the house-warming. There were lots of good things to eat and drink; the cheery sound of the fiddle, making the heart and feet keep time to the music. Then homeward, by the fading moonlight, went a tired though happy throng.

Our host and his family are surrounded with all that heart can wish, and we congratulate them on possessing such a fine residence. May their "Home Rule" be a loving one. Now wishing them every blessing; we will accept their kind invitation, and attack the appetizing viands set before us.

Response of the Host. '

MY KIND NEIGHBORS:

If in our dwellings we had no rooms for friends, they could not be called "homes;" so, as I look upon the smiling faces around me, on which love for my family and self is so pleasantly visible, I can truly say with the poet, "'Tis home where'er the heart is.' We thank you for your visit here this evening, and hope it will be but a prelude to many more. Now as the younger portion seem eager for the gay and festive dance, I will stop. Only once more thanking you for your kindness in so cheerfully assisting at my house warming.

For a Stag Party.

GENTLEMEN:

As we are undoubtedly the nobler part of creation, we have the privilege of being sometimes without the

society of the lovelier but weaker sex. There is no doubt we are superior, for does not Burns say: "Her prentice han' she tried on man, and then she made the lassies, O!" While speaking of lovely woman, we can rest assured that at some *dear* gathering she is "picking us to pieces," not out of malice, but from the habit of her sex. But though she hold us at *bay*, she often has pity, and does not *hound* us, when we are on the *horns* of a dilemma. But we drink to all here, beseeching them to remember that though life without pleasure would be a *stagnation*; yet there should be reason in all things, and that "the noblest work of God's an honest man."

Speech at the Opening of a Hotel.

GENTLEMEN:

As all generous minds will second the saying "Live and Let Live;" so we say "there is always room for a good thing." From the time of the old fashion Inns, where "man and beast" were entertained, to the present age of wonders, an opening of this kind is well *filled*. If the repast at present before us is a sample of the future, our host will not suffer for lack of custom. We can best show appreciation for his "fluids" and "solids" by drinking in the former to his health and prosperity, and that this *opening* will be long before it is *closed*. "While I toddle on thro' life, I'll ne'er gang by your door."

The Landlord's Reply.

GENTLEMEN:

That my venture is encouraged you shew by your presence, and well-satisfied looks. That all will be

done to deserve your kind wishes, and so induce you to come again, is my fixed purpose. If my words are few, it is not for lack of sympathy, but for want of words by which to express my ideas. Please make yourself perfectly at home: attack the viands before you, leaving the empty dishes to vouch for me.

Speech on Inability to Say Something Funny

FRIENDS:

I never was funny: so I cannot comply with your funny request. Besides I once heard of a man being arrested who was too funny. So, seeing the danger, I do not take the risk. As for seeing a joke: why I am told if a house fell on me, I wouldn't "tumble."

Some celebrated wit, in company one evening, was asked by the little daughter of the house, when would he commence to be funny. Don't any one ask me that question. They would be too long waiting for the answer. If asked as a conundrum I—(as you'll have to do with me)—*give it up*.

Anniversary of a Y. M. Christian Association

DEAR FRIENDS:

The reports each year, prove that the "Young Men's Christian Associations" are on the increase. This Association is very powerful for good. Keeping young men from evil ways, making their lives honorable as well as useful to the world. They are also a means of introducing youths into families of worth and respectability.

Showing the Christian religion in its plainest form to all who wish to learn, and making religion a cheerful as well as a moral institution. But we must not be Christians in name alone: our actions should show to outsiders that we practice what we preach. Thanks to many noble hearts and liberal hands, we can make our rooms so attractive with pictures, with music and with books, that our young men, strangers in the city, will feel as if at home, and have no temptation to spend the evenings in unprofitable pursuits.

Address at a Workingman's Club.

GENTLEMEN:

At one time, club-rooms were only for the darlings of fortune, and an artisan had no place of comfort to spend an evening, or even an hour, in. Now that is changed; every large city, and many small towns, even, have rooms for handicraftmen to meet in, where they can wile away the hours in cheerful conversation, games of chess and checkers, and a skillful game of whist. The rooms well lighted and warmed, a library stocked with the best books of the day, all prominent magazines and newspapers, and, on certain evenings, Readings and Lectures, by capable orators. Showing that all the good and pleasant things of life are not monopolized by our wealthier brethren. We are not ashamed to commence in a moderate way, for we hope ere long to see our membership so large that a new and more commodious building will be required to meet our wants.

Speech on Taking the Chair at a Meeting.

GENTLEMEN :

In accepting the honor you have placed upon me, I can agreeably fill one requirement for the position—that is to sit still and listen to others speaking. The call is a surprise to me; but I will endeavor to justify your flattering opinion. But remembering that I am to take heed to what is said, and to say as little as possible myself, I will, with a renewal of my thanks, and a determination to fill the chair suitably, proceed to business.

Speech on being Elected a Society's President

GENTLEMEN :

Your selection of me, proves that in your mind I am worthy to fill the position, and I am determined to prove that I deserve your preference. That I will have your welfare at heart be assured, and with your help and sympathy I venture to accept the honor conferred upon me; and trusting that you will never have any cause to regret your choice, I will conclude my brief speech.

Address at a Strawberry Festival.

FRIENDS :

In the majority of cases, self-denial involves some self-sacrifice—but here we can do good, and receive our reward at the same time. The rich red of the berry contrasts with the mellow of the cream, making a dish fit for the greatest monarch on earth. But as

the proof of such things is in the eating, I will not keep you from testing for yourselves, And in the cause of Charity, I hope that each one will be blessed with an extra appetite and means to gratify it.

Speech on Being Elected Captain of Company

COMRADES :

That I am pleased with my election cannot be concealed, and by my conduct in the future can I alone show whether your judgment is correct. I can only echo your wishes when I say, that we shall drill hard to prove a model for our gallant profession. Although we are not called upon to make war upon any nation, yet should occasion demand, we will ever be found ready to report at the first roll of the drum. That jealousies and petty strifes will ever disturb our harmony, much less break our ranks, I have no fear—for we all recognize the truth and force of the sentence, "In Union there is Strength!"

Speech on Conclusion of a Voyage.

CAPTAIN ——— :

My fellow passengers have selected me to present their thanks for your continual watchfulness and unremitting kindness on this passage, made in your splendid and staunch vessel. The commander of a ship holds a most responsible position, and all look up to him. In you we have found all necessary traits, united with a gentlemanly manner.

With you we have found "A Life on the Ocean Wave," a voyage free from anxiety, and one of real pleasure. Now that we have reached our destination we tender to you our heartfelt thanks.

Reply of the Captain.

GENTLEMEN:

In hearing my passengers express their satisfaction I am well repaid; and I feel that the passage has been more than usually pleasant to me, in making me acquainted with such worthy and agreeable friends. Now that we must separate, believe me it is with deep sorrow that I say, "Adieu." In the voyage of life may we sail over stormless seas; until we reach that safe haven where no cyclones can ruffle the tranquil water.

Speech for a County Fair.

MY FRIENDS:

Such Exhibitions as we now are present at, show strongly the rapid advance of the "march of improvement." When we look around, we see on every hand some specimen of man's or woman's ingenuity. Well may the farmer be elated with honest pride when he is awarded the prize, won by his toil and skill. Nor less honorably proud must be the feeling in the heart of that lady whose deft fingers have embroidered so naturally that flowers and fruits fairly vie with the productions of the garden and the orchard. While many of her fair sisters have contributed largely of articles of use and ornament. Then the inspiring or melt-

ing notes of the band, are floating on the air made fragrant by the incense of innumerable flowers. If Solomon could see our Exhibition, he would not say there was no new thing under the sun.

In finishing my rambling remarks, I will express the hope that, in company with the *fair*, they will enjoy the *fare* that will be found spread on the tables before them.

Address to Children on Christmas Eve.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS :

After many years of hard labor, *Santa Claus* starts forth to-night, to visit homes, and gladden the hearts of little children—who have been miracles of good behavior for fear they would be forgotten at this time. Every child at some time has gone to bed, thinking he will wake to see the old chap come down the chimney, and fill out the stockings that hang so slim at the fire-side; but *Morpheus*, who has charge of sleepers, just waves his wand, and the tired little eyelids close over eyes that do not open until smiling Morning peeps into the window. What a wonderful fellow *Santa Claus* is, for knowing just what each one wishes for; no mistakes are made; and if some children hardly think they deserve all the lovely gifts bestowed on them; they must remember that *Santa Claus* has forgiven all misdeeds in hopes that they will do better in the future than in the past.

But as many little heads begin to nod, and eyes to wink, showing that the "sand man" is around, I will wish you all "A Merry Christmas" and hope that none will be forgotten to-night.

Speech after a Barn-Raising.

FRIENDS:

That willing hearts make strong hands, has been shown to-day by the lively manner in which this barn has been raised. After such violent, though voluntary, exertion for me, you must now work hard in your own behalf; and the quicker you put yourself outside of the provisions now before you, the better all will be pleased.

Your working as one man proves that "united we stand," and that should this union be practised all the world over, how splendid might be the result. Just think, too, that if one sturdy pair of hands should let go, the whole structure would be a mass of ruins, and "great would be the fall thereof."

And, now, the more heartily you enjoy yourselves, the more truly happy I will feel.

SPEECHES AT, AND AFTER, DINNER.

The warlike Romans, as well as the polished Athenians, made intellectual entertainments an accompaniment at all their feasts. Our ancestors improved upon the pattern set them by the ancients; and we have "gone them one better." It was once supposed that John Bull owed his famous facility for after-dinner oratory, to the unctuous, juicy barons of beef, which "the tight little island" produced and devoured; but beef is becoming "scarce within these oxless isles," as Byron has it—and amazing plenti-

ful in our land of Canaan—hence we ought, by parity of reasoning, to furnish the best orators over the *joints*, and the *entrees*, and the *pates*, to be found on this terrestrial ball. But if you wish good digestion to wait on appetite, don't give the company too much to ponder over.

Speech at Militia Company's Annual Dinner

COMRADES:

It is a duty we owe to ourselves, as well as to our country, that we are no laggards in this action. As we ply the weapons of home warfare, we will bear in mind to "eat, drink, and be merry." If we were suddenly called upon to fight for our country we would not be found wanting. The sound of the dinner-bell acts upon me as the trumpet-call on an old war horse, rousing to instant action.

As we fall into rank and file let us remember that "every man this day must do his duty." Imagining this bounteous banquet before us this day, is an enemy, we will fall to and despatch in quick time.

Speech at a Base Ball Dinner.

FRIENDS OF THE ——— CLUB:

- We try to gain our point honorably, and would almost *club* any man whom we saw do a *base* action, until he was compelled to *bawl*. The same agility that we show in the *field*, we can display here to-night, and all our innings will be decidedly pleasant. The

Club has my congratulations for its brilliant games in the past, and best wishes for the future. Now I propose as a toast, "May we ever keep the ball a-rolling."

Speech at a Military Dinner.

SOLDIERS :

I will not venture to call you "citizens" for I remember, and tremble as I remember, that Cæsar very greatly incensed one of his legions by giving them the more peaceable appellation. But I am proud, each of my fellow-soldiers, to grasp your warlike hand,—thankful that you have not a hand-grenade concealed in it; to look into your eyes formed like Mars' "to threaten and command." I was glad to see you quickstep off to the table, "not like single spies, but in battalions;" I am satisfied that when you put your "Bluchers" on, you won't care a "Nap" for any General but "Savery." You will not, on this occasion, I am sure not neglect your *regimentals*. You are the boys to attend to the *pi(k)ecrust*. But, seriously, fellow soldiers, if our militia had not shown the same avidity to rush into a fight as you do to be present at a feast, we would at present be marching under a different flag, from that which now waves, and which I trust will continue to wave, over this free and happy land. Remember, it was Washington's militia, not Braddock's regulars, that saved the English flag on the disastrous battle-field, from disgrace as well as defeat. But I will not further delay you, "but cry havoc, and let slip, *you dogs of war!*"

Speech at a Fireman's Festival.**COMRADES :**

It is seldom so many of us meet together, except at the call of those "Brazen bells"—which EDGAR POE so strikingly describes; and which so often, in our large cities, awaken sleepers from pleasant dreams, to the fiery realities of terrified wakefulness. Brave as are the soldiers who storm cities "through the imminent deadly breach," I do not magnify the dangers of our profession, when I say that it fully equals the warrior's. For the soldier knows that when he meets his foe hand to hand, and foot to foot, it is the most fearless eye, and the boldest heart, that has the best of it. Not so with the firemen. We have to confront a foe that wont yield an inch to any human valor. We have to do battle with the fierce flames, or the still more dangerous, because insidious, foe, the choking smoke: that like the python cengeals with its poisonous breath before it proceeds to strangulation. While physical bravery is an indispensable requirement in a Fireman, mental courage and coolness are still more needed attributes. Where and when to scale a wall, and when to hurl it down; when and where to direct a stream of water; when or where to send forward or upward, a brave man on a perilous errand. Knowing full well that he will do his duty, and his whole duty; placing his entire reliance upon the serene judgment of his superior officer. But it may be asked, why do I praise you to your faces? You know all the risks that you incur, and you willingly brave them. But does not the bravest old veteran like to "shoulder his crutch and show how fields were won?" It is with a like spirit that I have been actuated: to recal scenes in

many of which we have been partners; and, also, to make the present re-union all the more pleasant, by its contrast with past alarms and dangers. And now permit me to propose: "The Firemen of the United States!"

Speech at a Base Ball Dinner.

FELLOW PLAYERS:

I feel that I deserve to be *scored*; and, doubtless, I shall *catch it*, for entering the *field* of oratory upon this by no means *base* occasion. Still I feel that you all wish me a good *delivery*. So I proceed to play the *game*, as if I was going to a first-rate *ball* in the best society: neither too high nor too low. I know that I am speaking before gentlemanly *umpires*, who will see that I get *fair play*. You will observe that I have not practiced at the bar, long enough to acquire a good "legal delivery." You will notice that I stand where I am placed—no facing for a good position. As, however, I notice the Chairman has his eye on the "chick-in' fixin's, I am certain he is about to make a "foul strike"—So I will anticipate him, by coming to "a short stop."

Speech at a Boat Club Dinner.

SHIPMATES:

For such by nautical nomenclature every mother's son who goes down to the sea in ships, is baptized; and any who cavils at the title deserves to be keel-hauled, We are rather tough chips of the old block, but we think the poet missed it when he cried for a

wet sheet, apropos of being tucked up in "in the cradle of the deep." But I am getting "out of soundings"—forgetful of the adage "that larger ships may venture more; but smaller ones must keep near shore." But really there are few amusements that tend to promote health and good-fellowship like belonging to a Boat Club of fine young men—who make the oars bend again, as Robin Hood did his tough bow; who follow every indication of the "stroke" like clock-work; who know exactly when to "ease up," and when to "pull for dear life." Who, whether college-bred or not, wish to know nothing about the "past" tense. Who, however fond of *soft*, never condescend to *catch*, *crabs*; but *feather* their oars gracefully as a falcon does its pinions. Who have a *stern* way of treating competitors. Who, like a staunch hound, always has his "bow"-wow in the front. Who loves his *shell* as the pilgrim does his *scollop*. Who would "rather be right [ahead] than be President."

Here's to our favorite element—*Water*! Although our first admiral, Noah, got such a surfeit of it, that he immediately "planted the vine."

Speech at a Cricket Club's Dinner.

GENTLEMEN:

"Willow! willow!" sadly sang poor Ophelia—little dreaming of the pleasure that gentlemen in the future were going to get out of it. The first bold cricketer on record was that gallant fellow who, "when his legs were cut away, kept fighting on his *stumps*." Americans ought to be proficient at the game, as well as at talking about it: for what people can equal our *stump*

speeches. Many enthusiastic cricketers would go *bail* that Cricket was "the best game *out*." We say "out" advisedly, for *Charles* played the *Dickens* with the game by referring to it as an *in door* game: "The Cricket on the *Hearth*." Some families display such mastery in this game that many persons think that, "whatever is, is *Wright*." But a truce to *wide balls*, and let's try to do the running straight. The game of Cricket has much to do with building up the hardy frames of those sons of St. George who have done their country noble service on every field since *Runnymede*. In conclusion, I will propose the health of Our Cricketers: may they not only be successful at the game *outside*; but when they return to their home may they hear the tiny household Cricket, chirping his cheerful song.

Speech for a Club of Bachelors.

MY UNMATCHABLE FRIENDS:

The strongest man of antiquity had to resort to a Club to hold his own by banging the hydra-heads of evil in his day; so it is no reflection on our courage that we fly to our Club for support and solace, whenever we are in danger. Woman has been called "heaven's last, best gift to man." I think we are indebted to Milton for the idea; but as he was married twice; tried to get a divorce; and spent the greater portion of his time in writing about such cheerful subjects as Sin, Satan, and Hell, he can hard be taken as a good witness in the case. Especially as he wrote "*Paradise Regained*," after *both* of his wives were re-

moed from him. Some philosopher, taking a high, moral view of marriage, has sententiously asked, "is it right for a man to become a breeder of sinners."—But that is hardly a square question, because the children might grow up ornaments of their race and, joining the Salvation Army, might wed one or more of the Hallelujah Lassies. There's a combination devoutly to be hoped for by *Benedictines*, who are feebly holding out against *Beatriceian* wiles. One of the most artful tricks of the fair sisterhood is to have some promising (or, rather, *unpromising*) *bach.*, invited as *best man* at a wedding. If he *goes* he's a *goner*! He will see the most attractive side of matrimony: *the outside*. If he once steps under that flowery bell, the *knell* of his happiness has struck: that is supposing she is a *Nell*. A *Rose* by any other name would smell just as sweet," and prove just as expensive. The chatty, sprightly *Rosalind* before marriage, may alter into a regular *Desdemoaner* after. The gentle creature whom you have only seen in her snowy mull dress in the parlor, may at the wash-tub, profanely exclaim, (like *Lady Macbeth*), "out damned spot." Think of that dainty "little hand that gave away her heart" coming down like a duck on a June-bug on Master Tommy's trouserloons, in a way that makes the hopeful wish he had been born a twin, so that the proceeds of the w(h)aling expedition might be divided. I think Joe Smith ought to be the bachelor's patron saint. For if the bulk of mankind follow his precept and example, we, bachelors, are safe. *There wont be enough to go round*. It's in the ball-room that the (un)fair sex *take steps* to win us, innocent bachelors; they get our heads turned in the waltz; they *change partners* in the *quadrille*, to make us fancy that when we are

really in *quod*, it will be easy to get out; they pleasantly join us in the Virginia *reel*, leading us to suppose that they would greet us with the same smiles, when we “come *reeling* home in the morning.” True, St. Paul has said, “marriage is honorable to all men” —but then many things are honorable that are not agreeable.

Let us drink to this toast: “Women—lovely women—most any one of them will make a good wife—for *some other fellow*.”

Speech---“Our Host and Hostess.”

FRIENDS:

We are having a most enjoyable time at this excellent repast. Now to whom are we indebted? to our host and hostess; and they have spared no efforts to make this a memorable entertainment. Shall we not express the delight we feel, and show our appreciation? May their days be long, and may “the apple of discord” never grow in their garden. May they ever be willing to speed the parting, welcome the coming guest. Fill your glasses, and drink to “Our Host and Hostess”—whom it is an honor to know.

Reply by the Host.

MY FRIENDS:

When we see you all happily enjoying yourselves, we know our modest efforts are fully appreciated as well as acknowledged, and we are made thoroughly happy by the result.

Without pleasant society, we might as well be domiciled in that "lodge in some vast wilderness," which the poet sighed for, but showed no disposition to move to. When we can have our friends around us, on occasions like this, home seems doubly dear to us. We feel that we are debtors to you for your "goodlie companie" and sincerely thank you for this kind visit. As I am little accustomed to speech-making, I trust you will excuse me from further taking up your time.

Speech for a Whist Club Supper.

GENTLEMEN :

Cards were said to be invented for the amusement of a mad king ; but, certainly, all who use them are ~~not~~ so sadly afflicted ; though players often get mad at a poor hand or a stupid player. But Whist Players, more particularly, have "a method in their madness"—and many an hour is sensibly and pleasantly whiled away at Whist.

We hold *honors* in our hands then, if at no other time ; and we are full of *tricks*, though usually square in our *dealings* ; and should we get where *honors* are of no account, we will rest on our laurels and point to the good *book* before us. That Whist is something more than a mere pastime—that it is a healthful exercise for the mental organs—is proven by the high order of intellects that cultivate it. So let us all drink to the skilled votaries of "whist !" who so well know, that silence is golden !

Speech at an Oyster and Champagne Supper.

MY FRIENDS:

The oyster is a delightful bivalve! who has not felt his mouth water on smelling a *roast*, or got into a *stew* for fear he would be too late for the repast. On the half shell he waits (not long) for us to devour him.

How spontaneously spring to the thoughts, Hoffman's inimitable bacchanalian verses:

"Sparkling and bright in 'golden' light!"

as the foaming "Piper Heidsick" beads our lips with fragrant pearls, and enables us to realize the raptures of the poet. Those we love, seem doubly lovely when toasted in Champagne.

Speech at a Chess Club Festival.

GENTLEMEN:

Few people, even the deepest tragedians, play such *moving* parts as you. It is sometimes said that a man's house is his *castle*: but if a man loses his castle as often as you do, it's no great acquisition. Sometimes we have more trouble with our *Bishops* than even Bismarck has with his. It's a game that keeps a man from spouting, for fear of losing his *pawns*, for if he isn't careful he's sure to be *checkmated*. Some have thought to praise the game, by saying it is a game for *kings* to play—but in truth it is a game for *men* to play—men of brains, mind you. There is no winning at this game by luck. No noble dunce can win at chess. It is really the most fair of games; honors don't count. You must make every move on the *square*.

Speech for a Sportsman's Festival.

FRIENDS:

Any one who takes life for the mere profit is no true sportsman, as a genuine lover of Gun and Rod, selects the proper time to exercise his craft, and is never seen *reeling* home, with a *line* of *gamey* fish, out of season.

How gladly will the angler *perch* himself on some *dear* spot, where a *fly floats* on the brook, with infinite skill. How he will smile approvingly as he sees some fellow sport get a *ducking*; and then think of the many "wild-goose chases" that he has joined in. Now, my friends of the streams and the *woods*, by your *leaves*, I propose "the health of all true sportsmen; and a full execution of reasonable Game Laws"—so that every kind of "fur, feather, and fin" may have a chance to multiply.

Speech for a Jockey Club Dinner.

MY FRIENDS:

We are often slandered by illy-informed people—who fancy that a race is a *course* of destruction; and that any one who bets is sure to stumble into a dirty *pool*. Now, the fact is that no one tries more earnestly to keep all disreputable people from the *ring*. As there is no nobler animal than the horse; every pains should be taken in his breeding and training; to fit him for his many useful purposes. The horse, when well treated, can teach many human beings lessons of trust and affection. But for the brute who misuses

him, he ought to be *roped-in* to a *halter*; after a *strap* has been applied to the *bare-back* of the wretch who cruelly misuses his power. As we ride to the Course, with our favorite colors flashing in the light, our noble steeds champing and prancing, there is no nobler and more exhilarating sight. Then to see the gallant racers, ranged in line, straining like hounds in the leash, cager for the fray, then see them leap forward, struggling for the front, as if an empire's safety depended upon which "color" first passed the goal.

"Here's to the Jockey, who spares the whip and spur, yet always shoots ahead, like a gallant *Archer*!"

Speech for a Dramatic Festival.

GENTLEMEN:

"Consistency thou art a jewel!" How many folks will condemn the stage wholesale, and will yet read the trashiest kind of play books, and attend wishy-washy performances in parlors and schoolrooms. If a play is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well: hence the proper thing is to go to well-regulated theatres—where the Managers respect themselves, and consequently respect their audiences. Of such theatres are the Madison Square, in New York, and the Park, in Brooklyn. Not that they are exceptions: but they happily suggest what a theatre should be. Good theatres, both professional and amateur, are very plentiful now-a-nights. But the world is a wide one, and we all have our various acts to play; so let us take our *cues* as honor *prompts*, and deliver the *lines* set down for us, "with good emphasis and dis-

cretion" — so that when the curtain falls on the "Drama of Life" they may be the recipients of such applause as is bestowed "when some well-graced actor leaves the stage."

Speech at a Ball Supper.

FRIENDS:

That almost anything can be carried to excess is true; but the most bitter enemy of the mazy dance, if here to-night, would extract some of it from his speeches. Eyes are brighter, cheeks more rosy, steps lighter, as the music rhythmically gushes forth, in many a sweetly varied strain. The rudest become softened, and harmonized in accord with the gentle and graceful creatures who add new charms to the poetry of motion.

That our friends, to whose hospitality we are indebted to-night for so many hours of pure enjoyment, seem pleased with their experiment, we are assured. So, to show how really well-pleased we are: "on with the dance, let joy go unconfined."

Speech at a Merchants' Dinner.

GENTLEMEN:

The growth of our nation, in enterprise, wealth and character, is largely owing to the manner in which our ancestors embarked in commerce. The main factors in our great progress were furnished by the peoples

that have left their impression upon our character: the British, the Dutch, and the Hugenots. The two former were enterprising traders from the beginning; and the latter, though not so numerous as the others, were eminent in their day for combining general intelligence with a trading spirit. While most of the seaports of England and her sister isle—except Bristol and London—were doing a comparatively peddling business in local traffic, Salem, Boston, Newport, and New York, were already visiting the East Indies, and pushing their adventurous prowls into unknown seas. The great Exchanges of Amsterdam, Liverpool, and many other places that might be enumerated; including the merchant princes of Italy—to say nothing of our own great mercantile magnates—have not only been famous for their enterprises, and the immense fortunes which they have acquired, but for their big-hearted benevolence, and unbounded generosity in contributing to the founding of hospitals, the establishment of libraries, colleges, picture galleries, and other institutions to relieve destitution, to encourage learning.

The merchants, as a body, have not hidden their talents in a napkin: but as much has been given to them—they have been liberal in its free distribution to others.

The profession that can show such noble benefactors of humanity as the Perkinses, the Masons, the Peabodys, the Coopers, the Senays, in their ranks, deserve well of their country. Let us toast: "Success to Commerce: the herald of civilization, and the best friend of industry."

Speech to a Meeting of Workers.

MY FRIENDS:

There is one fact recorded in holy writ, that is true as truth, where it says of man "by the sweat of thy brow, shalt thou eat bread." This is a hard text as applied to the great majority—but there is a large and ever encreasing minority, who manage to evade the primal curse. "They toil not, neither do they spin; and yet not Solomon, in all his glory, was arrayed like one of these." In most parts of the world, the workers are so hemmed in and trammelled by cruel circumstances, and large armies, that there is no resource but to compel attention to their wrongs, by using their strong arms to right themselves. Not half-a-century ago, the leading cotton-spinners and mine-owners, made common cause with their hands, or rather, induced their hands to make common cause with them, to strike a blow at the great land-owners.

So heartily did they go into the fight, that they won the victory: the Corn Laws were abolished, the trade in bread-stuffs was declared free, and—the grateful employers of skilled labor proceeded to cut down wages proportionably with the fall in the price of bread! Some of you may wonder why I introduce such an old world, threabare incident here. I will tell you, my friends. It is as true here, as it is in Europe, that the land-owners and the provision-speculators, have every inclination to grind labor between the upper and the lower mill-stones. But in this country it is our own fault if we submit. We have the panacea for all political wrongs in our own hands. The down-trodden workmen of Europe, gasping for free air and

free land, may be well pardoned, if like Samson, in their rage, they pull down the fixed pillars of society, knowing that they have little if anything to lose by the catastrophe. But in this country there is not the slightest reason for violence. We have what has been demanded—too often in vain, I admit—by all men, the right to choose our law-makers.

Now, if we choose to elect either King Stork or King Log to reign over us, we must abide the consequences.

Even asses will not furnish saddle and bridle, and provide spurs for their masters to urge them.

Some one has said, "Sustain capital, and capital will sustain labor!" But I say, "Sustain labor: capital is abundantly able to take care of itself."

Now, let me observe, in conclusion, that as it is not often men of our class get a good dinner, we had better proceed to demolish it at once: before it is cornered by some millionaire.

Speech for a Telegraphers' Banquet.

MY FRIENDS:

As the words *flash* over the *wires*, we recall to mind the great Jubilee, when Morse taught the dumb to speak. To all who hold the *key* the world is open as a book. We wish to communicate to a friend—our question and his answer change places in a few seconds. The same wires announce a wedding, a birth, a death, with impartiality. As quick as the lightning's flash courses the message over the wires. When a storm has broken the lines, and we are cut off from

the rest of the world—we realize, what could we do without the telegraph?

But I see some of you *signaling* your impatience, so I will stop at this *point*.

Speech for a Cotton Planters' Banquet.

FELLOW PLANTERS:

That King Cotton is a royal fellow, cannot be denied; that he is a friendly one, is also true: for some of us take him to our hearts with pleasure. To see a cotton plantation in full bloom, with the pickers industriously at work, is to witness a charming sight; the dark faces form a background for the snowy white of the cotton. Now, that free labor tills and gathers the great cotton crop, there is nothing to prevent the fields from resounding with cheery jokes and pleasant laughter.

In the manipulation of cotton *gin* is a requisite, but it is put to a use that the strictest tetotalter cannot object.

But I will not spin a yarn, as you are no doubt eager to taste the contents of yonder *bole*, and have some *pickings* at the good things set before you.

Speech at a Tobacco Trade Banquet.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

I suppose I could not choose a better subject than my present one. Although it—tobacco—has many enemies, yet it seems to live in spite of the *cuts* made

at it, and *shows* it is not to be *sneezed* out of existence. How many a man has had his joys and sorrows *end in smoke*. As we pass round the *pipe of peace*, what pleasure is ours, when we see "the smoke which so gracefully curls" above our head.

Many ladies do not like it, they say ; and yet some enjoy a pleasant puff on the sly, when no one is the wiser.

Sailors entirely lose their reckoning without their quid rolling in one corner of the mouth, as the boatswain *pipes* the calls on shipboard.

All honor to Sir Walter Raleigh, for giving us this gentle soother of the nerves—his *Virginia* never *Pauls*. May we never want for a bit of tobacco in some form or other—even an old *plug* may afford temporary *solace*.

Address at a Distribution of School Prizes.

MY YOUNG FRIENDS :

The Exhibition of to-day brings back to me my own school-days. The same striving after honors, as the scholars show, is seen when they enter the struggle for wealth and honors, later on.

Without proper ambition, and the resolute "I will get the prize," the student goes through his course of study, and leaves the school, entirely unfitted to wrestle with those who see ever before them the laurel of fame and honor.

I feel proud of you to-day. If in this struggle some are left behind, they should not be discouraged. But—try, try again: remembering, "the race is not al-

ways to the swift," and that the tortoise often outstrips the hare. Though the way may be long and wearisome, yet by the victor all troubles are forgotten.

That those who have gained the prizes, are proud of them, is true; but they must be looked on as alluring the young student to higher and better things. Ambition, skill and energy, achieve what seem at the first glance unattainable, and there is one word that should ever be present in the scholar's mind: "*Excelsior!*"

Address at a Reunion of Artists.

FELLOW ARTISTS:

That we will not have to *canvas* for recruits is evident by the large *groups* now present.

We will love our glorious Art "till the hand has lost its cunning."

We have not framed any set speeches for this occasion: but will trust to all hearts doing their level best. With one stroke of our *brush*, we can impart a *roseate hue* to the gloomiest of life's *pictures*; or by a touch of the *pencil* change a ruddy complexion "to the pale hue of thought."

Under the magic touch of genius a few square inches of canvas show us the whole "Voyage of Life;" the good, the great, the lovely, stand before us in the exact manner in which they lived. The tattered beggar boy, and the "buried majesty of Denmark" alike revisit us. The patriot-men and the Cornelias of the Revolution, again stand visibly before us. Flowers bloom, trees wave, mountains tower, rivers roll,

May our *hand* be able to keep the *palette* busy.

Speech at a Leather Dealers' Dinner.

GENTLEMEN:

No one engaged in this business, has any occasion to *hide* his face—we cannot be *pelted* with impunity; though we sometimes do a little *skin game*, our *sole* object is to improve the understandings of our customers.

We are in the *upper* class; yet we have shown no avidity for high office; although I *Grant U.*, we had a Presidential *tanner*; whose *bark* wasn't worse than his *bite*, by the way. In *tanning* his foes, he kept well *a-beam* until he got them under his *Lee*. You'll seldom find a currier a rogue in *grain*, though he may *wax* rich by *tapping* the tills of the *sumacers*; but that is *all*.

Gentlemen, let us drink, in good *liquor*, "Success to the Leather men: May they always keep their hands out of the bark-mill, and their feet out of the lime-pit."

To the Children of a Public School.

MY YOUNG FRIENDS:

Such a large attendance proves the appreciation of our noble system of free education.

When I look on the eager faces, aglow with health and intellect, and think that rightfully the very poorest have equal chances with the richest, I thank our public school system.

Remember that learning will not come of its own accord, it must be sought for diligently.

When even those who are said to be deficient in

reason can be taught something useful, surely we, who are by God's grace, in full possession of our faculties, should make every effort to acquire an education.

Before closing, I must award praise to those who spend time, patience, and health, in imparting to others what they know the value of.

To a Minister, with a Donation.

DEAR PASTOR:

While giving you the results of our entertainment for your benefit, your people wish me to say, that you have a most loving hold on their hearts. We admire the energy and patience you display in your sacred vocation; the gentle, yet firm, way you have with the weak; the admirable manner in which you put the light of the gospel before the simplest mind; and above all the modesty that shrinks from all public displays; and is well contented to do his Master's work among the lowliest disciples.

We hope this little tribute will, to some extent, bear out the spoken wishes of your flock.

Reply of the Pastor.

MY DEAR FRIENDS:

When congregation and pastor are as one, what joy exists—the words of sympathy you have just uttered make me feel that my humble efforts are indeed greatly blessed.

That your pecuniary gift is welcome, I will not deny; and when I think it is gathered by the loving hands of my friends, its value is much enhanced.

May our church long exist, and the tie that unites us be unsevered for many years.

Once more accept my gratitude for the voluntary tribute, and the thoughtfulness that collected it.

Speech at a Printers' Dinner.

GENTLEMEN :

I know that it is a *rule* on these occasions to call upon any poor *devil*—no odds how wretched a *stick* he may be in such a *case*—"to *stand* and deliver!" without any more *pressing*.

But I do not feel in good *form* this evening, as I am entirely *out of sorts*, and in anything but a *capital* mood to utter a speech, or sing my favorite ditty of "*Salley in our Alley*."

I do not wish to *copy* from any one; but every time I have occasion to make a *Note* of any matter, when reaching to the *upper case* for a *star*, I feel like "*speaking daggers* if using none," when I grasp another *hand* in my *box*, and find that some botch has supplied the *office gratis* (not to *mince* the matter) with most indigestible *pie*. The mere thought sets me on the *rack*, and if I had any spare *quoins*, I'd do something desperate; though I might *get locked up* for my pains; perhaps in the Tombs, the natural receptacle for all *battered faces* and *dead forms*. But this is not taking a *correct* view of things. So I will *revise my take*, and as a *proof* that I intend to "turn

over a new leaf, by reversing the cylinder—with all my heart, I will give you a toast. So *empty your sticks*—I mean your glasses: “May inventors contrive to have Printers’ *Babies*, as well as their *Presses*, made *Self-Feeders*.”

Speech for a Dry Goods Merchants’ Reunion.

GENTLEMEN:

The only time when it is allowed for a husband to give his wife a “good dressing,” is on our account. When to woman’s natural charms, she adds the work of the loom, as she comes before us, stately in “silken attire” or clad in “cloud-like lawn” she is irresistible. And if she gives so much pleasure to her lord and master, he ought to proudly foot the bills.

But some of our sex will think we need “muzzling” for putting such ideas into the heads of their fascinating relatives.

We never see a nicely dressed lady but we “cotton” to her.

The time is passing, and I think I hear the ticking of your watches, begging me to remember the spread waiting for us.

All men like to be tidy, and have a curtain thrown over their faults.

A man who refuses to get his wife a velvet dress, deserves to be tossed in a blanket.

Our domestics know their own value, and will not be imposed upon, and cast into the shade.

Some spiteful old bachelor has accounted for the expulsion from Eden, through Eve’s “apple” of dis-

cord, by saying, that no woman would want to live in a place where "there was nothing to wear."

Lest I infringe on your time, I will now cease, leaving this Dry (Goods) subject, to take up one that will not be a damper on our festivities

Speech to a Surprise Party.

FRIENDS:

Pleasures unexpected are said to be of increased value: so this surprise is very delightful. As it is no disgrace for the bravest to yield to an overwhelming force, so myself and family show their "discretion" by surrendering.

All are welcome: and where every one has come, on pleasure bent, there is no call for dull formalities.

My house is at your service—and it will be our greatest surprise, if this don't prove the merriest of all merry meetings. We sincerely thank you.

Speech for a Hatters' Festival.

MY FRIENDS:

"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown;" and the same may be said about an ill-fitting hat. It is not known for how long our style of hats has been worn; but Shakespeare says, "I saw young Harry with his beaver on!" Why the dress-hat of the present is denominated "stove-pipe," I do not know; unless "from the quantity of smoke that rolls beneath it." Many a man has "felt" he looked well, as he donned a new "tile." When on some heads we can truly say "there's millions in it." Let us hope that every Hatter, like the Beaver, may always contrive to keep his head above water, and "dam" the floods of adversity.

Address for Decoration Day.

We have gathered here to-day to celebrate the most hallowed and truly-Christian holiday in our national calendar.

As we look on the beautiful flowers, gathered and arranged by loving hands, and donated by sympathetic hearts, we would fain praise the donors: but the glorious hues and the delightful fragrance, makes poor the eloquence of words.

As the old flags, battle-rifted by shot and sabre, the very breeze seemed to lull, as if loth to kiss the hallowed relics too roughly.

As the grand old standards slowly moved along, many of them borne by those who had often seen them wave in the fiery front of conflict, how the proudest heads were lowered with respect, and the brightest eyes suffused with loving tears.

When the veterans deployed around the graves of the heroes, the bearers of the flowers, scattered God's beautiful blossoms, till the graves looked like beds of growing flowers, and seemed a glimpse of that beautiful land, beyond the clouds of trials and tragedies.

Where Creed is lost in Adoration! Where all that the most imaginative can picture of sunshine and exquisite blossoms, falls infinite short of the glorious reality.

Never was there in so brief a period such a vast number of stubborn engagements; and never were the furrows of shot and the harrow-ridges of shell so abundantly covered with harvests of grain and corn.

It is well that the cruel feuds are over. What we could be to each other, as friends, was abundantly proven by a century of such success as had no paral-

lel in the recorded annals of humanity. What we can do again as brethren let the future attest. And now wherever a brave man's grave is decorated, whether his heart beat beneath a gray or a blue uniform, let us decorate them with the sweet flowers that seem to bloom for this holy purpose.

FORMAL METHODS

OF WRITING THE PREAMBLES, RESOLUTIONS, ETC., USED AT PUBLIC MEETINGS, ETC.

As every heart knows its own sorrows; so every assemblage knows best the different ways in which a sorrow, or a joy, should be referred to. Still, there is a similarity in the external forms prescribed by usage, even for weddings and funerals. So we give a few of the general forms adapted for various occasions; premising, that on many momentous instances grief, or joy, omit some seemingly trivial point, that afterward is regretted.

To an Officer Receiving an Appointment.

WHEREAS, By the appointment of our worthy fellow citizen, — — —, to the office of — — —, the — — — has displayed a just appreciation of the fitness of things; therefore be it now

Resolved, That the appointment meets with our

strongest and warmest approval, and we will be heartily glad to see him enter upon the duties of said office; knowing that however onerous and difficult they may be, they will neither over-tax his ability or willingness—to perform them.

Resolved, That in judging of the future, by the past, we are convinced that his conduct in office will be satisfactory to the appointing power, as well to the great body of his fellow-citizens.

Resolved, That the officers of this meeting, see that the preceding Resolution, &c., be suitably transmitted to ———.

Signed by SECRETARY, on behalf of the Meeting.

Complimentary to a Retiring Officer.

WHEREAS, The present occasion, viz: the fact that our respected fellow-citizen has retired from the office of ———, gives us a proper opportunity to say, what we have continuously thought: Be it

Resolved, That all classes of our fellow-citizens are in accord with us in thanking ———, for the correct, able, and obliging manner in which he has performed the difficult and trying duties of his important office. And we must express our regret that he has found it best to take leave of his official duties.

Resolved, That with him, go the fervent wishes of all who have known him, that he may be as happy in private, as he has been exemplary in public life.

Resolved, That it is the desire of this meeting that the Secretary forward to ———, the preamble and resolutions passed on this occasion.

Complimentary to a Sea Captain.

The Cabin (or other) Passengers, in the steamer ———, Captain ———, reaching this harbor from ———, on the — instant, having met together, passed the annexed preamble and resolutions, unanimously:

As a proof of our high estimation for the seaman-like skill and nautical ability shown by Captain ———, and his brother officers, during the passage just successfully terminated, it is

Resolved, That if a staunch, swift steamer, able and affable officers, a bountiful table, and thorough care and attention to duty, are qualities to command respect and commendation, then we cannot speak too highly in praise of Captain ———, and his officers. And as good officers usually make good men, we must add that the hands, generally, were worthy of sailing in such a fine ship, and being officered by such able navigators.

Resolved, That this document be suitably engrossed, duly signed by all of us, and presented to the Captain by

[*Here append signatures.*]

Complimentary to a Retiring President.

WHEREAS, In all our intercourse (while you were President of this Institution,) when meeting you officially or otherwise, you have proved yourself to be an able ruler and an agreeable gentleman; therefore we could not think of parting from you without giving a formal expression of our feelings. We have, therefore,

Resolved, That we greatly regret that ———, so long

the President of —, has determined to retire from the high office. We can truly say, that much as we may wish it, we can hardly hope "to look upon his like again."

Resolved, That whatever position of life he may in future fill, we wish him the greatest success.

Resolved, That while, by our honored President's retirement our Institution has lost one of the very ablest presiding officers, we trust that he will still aid us with his wise counsels, as we know he will always watch our progress with a fatherly care.

Resolved, That the Secretary present a copy of the proceedings, suitably, engrossed, to President —.

TOASTS.

At most social meetings—whether of Clubs, Parties or Public Dinners—after the more set and formal proceedings have been gone through with, it is customary to inform the company that Volunteer Toasts are in order. Some freely respond, and there is often a pretty rapid shower of good, bad, and indifferent ideas. Now, in preparation for such an ordeal, it is best to go armed with a few really good sentences. Accordingly we append a list of toasts, which will be found to fit in somewhe on all festive occasions, and they will find hearty responses from people of all ranks and every party.

Naval and Military Toasts.

Long may every foe tremble, and every friend rejoice at the arrival of an American fleet.

May the laurels of America never fade through age, be blighted by cruelty to a fallen enemy, or be gained otherwise than with honor.

May American soldiers and cowardice, always be at war.

General Warren and the glorious seventeenth day of June.

May the American soldier never turn his bayonet against his own countrymen.

May the ensign of the American navy always prove the harbinger of dismay and defeat to our enemies, and of confidence and security to our allies.

May our officers and tars be valiant and brave,
And our commanders constant and true;
May they die by their guns, America's right to maintain,

And fight for the honor of their country's true blue.

May every American sailor fight bravely and be rewarded honorably.

May the example of our heroes in Mexico act as a stimulus to future ages.

May the thunder of America's cannon sound as awful to our enemies as the bolts of Jove.

May each soldier of Columbia a bright ægis bear.

May the tars of America triumphantly sail,
And over her enemies ever prevail.

May no true son of Neptune ever flinch from his gun.

May the world's wonder,
Be American thunder.

National Toasts.

May reverence for the laws ever predominate in the hearts of the American people.

May the love of country be imprinted in every American's breast.

May the American Congress ever have wisdom to plan our institutions, and energy and wisdom to support them.

May our love for our country extend with its boundaries.

America, the model of governments, and the pride of the world.

The American Navy, the pride of the sea ;
And all the American family.

A cobweb pair of breeches, a porcupine saddle, a hard-trotting horse, and a long journey, to the enemies of our country.

A toast to America, the land of the brave, where freedom inhabits, and commerce still smiles.

May the pleasures of Americans be pure as their breezes, and their virtues firm as their hickory.

The sons and daughters of America, may their union be cemented by love and affection, and their offspring adorn the stations they are destined to fill.

May liberty flourish for ever.

May the talons of the eagle be ever the portion of America's foes.

Health to our President, prosperity to our People, and may Congress direct its endeavors to the public good.

May the growth of the American union never be prevented by party spirit.

Long live the President that seeks the nation's love.

Liberty! may it never degenerate into licentiousness.

May our sons be honest and brave, and our daughters modest and fair.

May our country always be the casket of science, commerce, learning and art.

May every American be famed in war, skilled in art, and be blest with beauty's charms.

May Americans never suffer invasion, nor invade the rights of others.

May every future President of the United States possess the virtues of Washington.

May Americans be invincible by united force.

May the honor of our country be without stain.

May the glory of America never cease to shine.

May every American manfully withstand corruption.

May peace o'er America spread her wing,
And Commerce fill her ports with gold;
May Arts and Science comfort bring,
And Liberty, her sons enfold.

THE END.



FOR CHILDREN WHILE CUTTING THEIR TEETH

An Old and Well-Tried Remedy

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